BUSINESSES @TWITTER OVER TWITTER, PG 18

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TORONTO • MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009
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Celebrity pg 34

Wife likes a little more of Hugh

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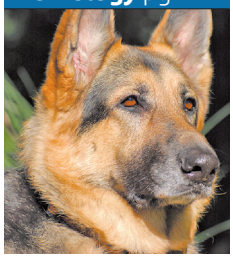
Help Anne Hines choose a new hobby

Workology pg 22



Dogging the bad guys

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22

GoGreen

In honour of Earth Day on Wednesday, Metro is providing you with ways you can go green and lessen your environmental footprint.

TODAY

GOING GREEN. While saving the planet is serious business, you can still have fun while you're at it. Page 19.

LOCAL. Packagers taking steps to reduce their environmental impact. Page 4.

TOMORROW

HEALTH. Tips to achieving an eco-friendly sex life.

ENTERTAINMENT. How the music industry is going green.

EARTH DAY

MOVIES. We have a review of the Disney film Earth.

GOING GREEN. A special section devoted to Earth Day.

In honour of Earth Day, Metro Toronto will be published on recycled paper every day this week.

Fundraiser **Walk for MS**

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thousands of people take part yesterday in the annual MS Walk at Sunnybrook Park. Now in its 18th year, approximately 2,500 participants hoped to raise $900,000 in the Toronto walk.

Falling through social safety net

Tens of thousands of unemployed don't qualify for benefits

The most severe recession in decades is exposing the gaping holes in Canada's vaunted social safety net.

Only six months into an economic downturn, social advocates and the jobless say the employment insurance system that was supposed to cushion the fall is, in reality, either inadequate or so hard to access that tens of thousands of newly unemployed just don't qualify for benefits.

As is always the case in times of economic troubles, it's the most vulnerable that are being hurt most by the recession.

And it's those Canadians, along with a smattering of individuals with unusual circumstances, who are finding the EI system not as advertised.

After giving birth last May, Maninder Rehsi of Maple was only able to acquire 430 insurable hours of work before her employer Progressive Moulded Products succumbed to the recession and went out of business, idling 2,000 workers, including her husband. Under EI requirements for her region, she was out of luck because she hadn't accumulated 600 insurable hours over the previous 12 months.

Now Rehsi says her husband's benefits are close to exhausted and she doesn't know how they'll make ends meet if they don't find a job soon.

Or Deonarine Persaud of Toronto, who lost his nine-year job at a car parts supplier last May and is now barely getting by on his wife's Wal-Mart salary, after his EI benefits of about $400 a week ran out.

"It's not like I don't want to work," said Persaud. "I used to work 50, 60 hours a week sometime. There are no jobs, not just for me, lots of people can't get jobs now."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Then and now

- Unlike the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s, when about 80 per cent of the unemployed collected unemployment insurance, today less than 43 per cent, or 560,000 of the 1.3 million Canadians who were officially jobless in January, are collecting benefits.

School bells may fall silent

The words ran hot and passions reached the boiling point — a taste of what's to come as Toronto public school trustees take up the thorny issue of closing dozens of neighbourhood schools due to declining enrolment.

"Bull—! You're f–ing lying!" yelled parent Steve Wanless Thursday, hurling an agenda at trustees as they discussed shutting down the first public school in Toronto since Mike Harris was premier.

But the jeers and drama may become routine as the Toronto District School Board finally grapples with 110 half-empty schools and the prospect of widespread school closings over the next few years — maybe 25 in 2010, warned trustee Bruce Davis, in an election year at that.

Lost amid the hubbub of closing pools at that committee meeting last Thursday was the proposal to close a Scarborough trade school in June that has seen its enrolment tumble to 213 in a building built for 750, despite millions of dollars in technical upgrades that include the most cutting-edge woodworking shop of any high school in Canada.

But the distraught crowd that gathered to plead for Timothy Eaton Business and Technical Institute, whose fate will be decided at the board meeting Wednesday, offered a mere glimpse of the battles ahead, said shaken trustees.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

905

Toronto's public schools have been shedding about 4,000 students per year because the city is losing new immigrants to the 905, leading the board to aim to close schools that fall short of more workable numbers — 1,200 for high schools, 450 for grade schools.

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College student faces child pornography charges
A Barrie college student has been charged in connection with Project Salvo, the biggest investigation of Internet-based sex abuse in Canadian history, which resulted in 57 arrests last month. Police seized a computer containing images of child pornography. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local

Dogs ate teen's pot-laced muffins

The marijuana-laced muffins that sickened four Port Perry dogs last month were not the work of a criminal, police said. Rather, the muffins were put there by a local teen trying to hide them from his parents. The 18-year-old, who lives near Poplar Park, had dumped them while cleaning up after one of several parties he hosted while his parents were away. On March 23, four dogs found the muffins, ate them and became sick. All of the dogs survived. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

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Lawrence Martin's political take in the National Report

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What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann on why Canada has no right to complain about alleged Mob boss being deported to Montreal at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries
Friday, April 17 Lotto Super 7: 5, 19, 21, 33, 35, 36 & 44. Bonus 28. Saturday, April 18 Lotto 6/49: 4, 5, 21, 33, 42 & 47. Bonus 24. Sunday, April 19 Ontario Pick 3: 2 7 7; Ontario Pick 4: 3 3 7 5 Encore: 3295807 Daily Keno: 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 27, 29, 35, 37, 38, 40, 44, 47, 54, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63. These results are not official.

Emergency fund eyed

CFIA to raid budget: Union

Canada's food watchdog is poised to raid its operational budget to build an internal contingency fund for emergencies such as last summer's deadly listeria outbreak, claims the union representing government inspectors.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is officially denying the allegation, but Bob Kingston, head of the agricultural section of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, said he learned of the change from multiple and senior agency managers.

He said he's been told cuts to operations will average between 10 and 15 per cent nationally and regionally go as high as 20 per cent in Ontario.

"Basically right now in CFIA it's common knowledge," said Kingston. "Most employees are aware of the fact, they've been told there's operation cutbacks coming this year."

In an emailed response, the CFIA denied there will be any reduction in operational budgets. It said a $20-million emergency fund has existed since 2003.

"Basically right now in CFIA it's common knowledge." Bob Kingston, union head

The union allegation came as a special House of Commons committee was about to begin hearing witnesses today in a study of last year's deadly listeria outbreak that claimed at least 20 lives. The CFIA released two "lessons learned" reports Friday afternoon addressing the outbreak, which was traced to a Maple Leaf Foods plant in Toronto.

The reports acknowledged a shortage of "surge capacity" in the event of emergencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just cruisin' **Sunny spring day**

RICHARD LAUTENS, TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A cyclist cruises Cherry Beach as a Coast Guard ship cruises off shore. Torontonians made the most of a sunny spring day by being outside and shaking off the last vestiges of winter.

String of weekend muggings

LOOT Cellphones and iPods were among the loot in a series of muggings across the city over the weekend.

In the first, on Friday evening, a 16-year-old was at Kipling subway station when he was jumped by three men and forced to hand over his cellphone.

No injuries were sustained in any of the incidents.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No detailed safety audit for a year

AUDIT The Maple Leaf plant at the centre of last summer's deadly listeria tragedy wasn't subject to a detailed safety audit by federal inspectors for at least a year prior to the outbreak, says a briefing note from the union representing inspectors.

Inadequate resources, staff shortages and overtime bans on federal inspectors have prevented the mandatory annual safety audits from being completed, says the union, which has sent its briefing note to members of a federal subcommittee investigating the outbreak.

The inspectors, who prepared the note based on personal observations as part of their jobs, are presenting it this week at federal hearings.

Tim O'Connor, a spokesperson for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, said while a full system audit was not done at the plant leading up to the outbreak, a different auditing system had been put in place that incorporates the same level of oversight.

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$300,000 raised for quake reconstruction

More than $300,000 has been raised Ontario-wide for the reconstruction of Italy's Abruzzo region, hit by an earthquake April 6, say organizers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Packagers admit to packaging problem

These days, it seems almost everything comes in a package, often one that's difficult to open, contains too many layers, seems designed mainly to sell the product, and creates a mountain of non-recyclable waste.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22 Go Green

Even packagers acknowledge they need to take steps to reduce their environmental impact.

"The reality is there is an over-packaging problem," says Jim Downham, president and chief executive officer of the Packaging Association of Canada. "It's a significant source of municipal solid waste."

But the answer is more complex than just removing wrappings or replacing everything with more recyclable materials, he says.

"All the government guys want to do is tax and they only think about recycling. They're all worried about the cost of their landfill," Downham says. "I'm trying to reframe the discussion around sustainable packaging.

"This isn't just about recycling. It's about reducing energy consumption, reducing the use of raw materials," he says. "Sustainable packaging is a much more holistic view. We consider recycling just one of the components of it."

It's also about staying in business. "If a company doesn't make money, it's not sustainable," Downham says.

Historically, packaging served some pretty basic purposes. Manufacturers were concerned about the need to keep their products safe, secure, free from bacteria, tampering and other hazards.

Today, packaging has to meet a whole host of sometimes conflicting consumer expectations, marketing experts say.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PAWEL DWULIT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A firefighter stands by the remains of The Red Barn Theatre in Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe the day after it burned to the ground. Only two walls of the barn built in 1883 were left standing.

It's curtains for historic barn

HISTORY Hugh Sibbald was just about to leave work Saturday night when a piece of his family's history went up in flames.

Night staff at The Briars Resort, which Sibbald runs, alerted him that the nearby Red Barn Theatre was on fire. He opened the gates for fire crews and watched as Canada's oldest professional summer theatre burned to the ground.

"There wasn't much they could do but keep it from spreading," said Sibbald, whose great-great-uncle Frank built the barn in 1883 on the family's land in Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe.

The fire started about 10:30 p.m. When it was extinguished about two hours later, nothing was left standing but two partial walls. The silo is the only part of the landmark that may be saved, Sibbald said.

Toronto actor Alfred Mulock rented the barn from the Sibbald family in 1949 and converted it into a theatre. It quickly developed into an important proving ground for young actors, and hosted some of the biggest Canadian stage stars, comedians and writers. Martha Henry, Barbara Hamilton and June Callwood all appeared at there.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

60th season

- This season, the company's 60th, was scheduled to start June 18 with a production of Tennessee Williams's classic The Glass Menagerie. The same play graced the theatre's inaugural season.

Feds hapless over ticket prices

PRICES The federal government has limited options for dealing with allegations of inflated ticket prices at Ticketmaster, an internal document suggests.

"The legislative consumer protection instruments and powers in regard to this matter rest largely at the provincial level," says a briefing note for Industry Minister Tony Clement. The draft note, marked secret, appears to have been prepared March 12 — more than a week after Clement announced he had asked the Competition Bureau to investigate the Ticketmaster allegations.

U.S.-based Ticketmaster Entertainment Inc. has been accused of limiting primary sales of face-value tickets for events in Canada, and diverting purchasers to a subsidiary website, TicketsNow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cops seeking two men after hair salon robbed

Police say two suspects, one armed with a gun and the other with a knife, entered a salon on Dufferin Street north of St. Clair Avenue West at around 7 p.m. Friday. The first suspect is black, 20 years old, five-foot-six to five-foot-seven with a thin build. The second is black, 20 years old, five-foot-10 to five-foot-11 with a thin build. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Holocaust survivor keynote at remembrance ceremony

SPEECH Joe Gottdenker remembers two things about the Holocaust: The sweet, warm taste of fresh milk and the day Germany surrendered.

Gottdenker

But it is the larger, collective memory of the Holocaust he hopes to keep alive.

"It's about the commemoration and the education," he says.

Gottdenker is the keynote speaker at tonight's Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, which is themed this year around child survivors. It is a subject he knows all too well.

The 66-year-old was still in the womb when his father was taken to a Nazi concentration camp, and spent his early life on a farm in Poland, raised as a Catholic so he wouldn't die a Jew.

Tonight's event, starting at 7 p.m. at Earl Bales Park, routinely attracts as many as 2,500 spectators, making it the largest holocaust remembrance ceremony outside of Israel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COUNCIL Oshawa is selling a piece of a neighbourhood park to a developer for $15,000. The price tag and the developer's plan to build a parking lot on the land have appalled residents and some councillors. The disputed slice of Chopin Park is worth "hundreds of thousands," according to councillor Louise Parkes.

ARREST Two males, including one youth, were arrested on Friday in connection with a series of electronics store robberies that took place across southern Ontario over the past month. Police said the suspects made off with LCD televisions and laptop computers, among other items, some of which were recovered after the arrests were made.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Early Jays lead fuels buzz

As the Blue Jays take batting practice, Nicholas and Nathanael Elsasser lay their Lyle Overbay bobblehead cards out on the dugout roof.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kevin Johnson looks at daughter Kyla, 22 months, at the beginning of yesterday's Blue Jays game. Kyla was happy to hold onto her Lyle Overbay bobblehead.. More coverage, see pg. 20.

"They're in first place," Nicholas, 11, points out.

Were you expecting that?

"No."

Does this mean they're going to win it all?

"Yeah."

There's the enthusiasm of youth for you. That might also describe the Blue Jays team, a group of surprising overachievers who've leapt out to a 10-4 record early in the season, good for first place in the American League East.

The playoffs are a distant five months and 148 games away, but the Jays have created a growing buzz around a town starved for a winner.

"No matter where I go, people are talking about the Jays. That hasn't been the case for a while," said team president Paul Beeston. "The fans have gotten to the point where they're hoping. They haven't crossed over into believing we're going to do it yet."

At least they're paying attention. After several years of early stumbles, the fast start has local fans thinking baseball, instead of turning their collective mind to playoff hockey.

"I never really gave up on them," said fan Gregoire Picher. "I've just lost my interest in the Leafs."

Yesterday, the Jays teased the Oakland A's in a tight 1-0 victory. Their strength thus far has come mainly from faces that are probably unfamiliar to the casual follower: Yesterday's winning pitcher, Ricky Romero, young sluggers Adam Lind and Travis Snider and surging veteran Kevin Millar.

Snider said he got a sense of the town's renewed interest for the first time on Saturday, when he went out to dinner with friends.

"People recognized me, were coming up to me saying `Keep it up,'." the 21-year-old said. "We all realize it's early, but it's good to see people excited."

This was supposed to be a rebuilding year, which only sweetens the taste of this run of early results.

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Local man dead in motorcycle mishap

A 22-year-old Toronto man is dead after losing control of his motorcycle north of Whitby yesterday afternoon. The crash happened at about 3:20 p.m. on Baldwin Street by the railway at Myrtle Station. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No seatbelts led to injuries: Police

CRASH Just three days after police kicked off a campaign to crack down on seatbelt use — officers suspect that not buckling up led to serious injuries to two children in a Toronto car crash.

The father was behind the wheel of the Dodge Caravan when it allegedly ran a red light on Yonge Street at Lake Shore Boulevard Saturday around 3:30 p.m. A Chevrolet Uplander smacked into the side of the van and ricocheted off a BMW that was stopped at the intersection.

A three-month-old boy flew out of his mother's arms and into a window, suffering head injuries and a broken leg. His three-year-old sister also hit her head, resulting in a severe cut. Both children were taken to the Hospital for Sick Children in critical condition.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Downtown **Free java**

JAMES BRITTAIN/FOR METRO TORONTO

A large simulated coffee cup blows off some steam at Dundas Square in this recent photo. McDonald's is offering free coffee from 5:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at its downtown locations until May 5.

Chrysler, union attempt another labour agreement

Move could prevent bankruptcy

Chrysler Canada and its union are set to re-enter labour negotiations today in a final attempt to reach an agreement that could save the company from bankruptcy or even liquidation, and the two sides have never been farther apart.

And with both federal Industry Minister Tony Clement and potential Chrysler partner Fiat saying the company will have to lower labour costs by $19 an hour to remain competitive, Chrysler has little room to manoeuvre.

Because of this, the Canadian Auto Workers' insistence that they will stick to the pattern established in a deal reached with General Motors Canada in March, which reduces that company's labour costs by about $7 an hour, may seem futile.

But analysts say the union does have some wiggle room.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deadline

- Chrysler Canada has been given until the end of the month to reach an agreement with the CAW and provide the federal and Ontario governments with a viable restructuring plan in order to receive long-term government bailout money.

INFORMATION FEATURE

You have choices when it hurts

When pain becomes too much, some kids will harm themselves, says counsellor Sharon Girgis.

SELF-HARM When pain gets too hard to take, some kids deal with the problem in the only way they know how — by harming themselves.

It's a problem that Sharon Girgis, a counsellor with Kids Help Phone, has seen all too often because kids often haven't learned good ways to cope with stress and pain.

"If kids have gone through some sort of personal trauma or stressful situation or emotional pain, in general self-harm is what they'll do to divert their attention from the emotional to the physical," she said.

While adults can often find just as destructive methods of dealing with their problems, kids are at a disadvantage because they may not understand there are better options.

"People will always have a variety of harmful coping mechanisms open to them and many kids are at an age where they are still developing their helpful coping mechanisms," Girgis said.

In her eight years as a counsellor, Girgis has seen a wide variety of self-harm cases ranging from minor to life-threatening but says the one thing which always holds true across all cases is that despite the perception of relief it gives, self-harm never solves the underlying problems that cause it.

"If you ask people what they get from self-harming, they say they go numb while they're doing it. But once the cutting stops, the problem is still there full-force. It doesn't really fix anything," Girgis said.

While Girgis says eating disorders were more common in the 1980s, self-harm has quickly become the negative coping tool of choice for kids in recent years.

"Definitely in the last 10 to 15 years there's been an increase in self-harm and experts don't entirely know why. A big part of it is exposure and word-of-mouth. Kids hear about it and want to try it out," Girgis said.

Girgis says kids who harm themselves can get caught up in a vicious cycle of guilt, hiding their wounds, lying about their behaviour while not addressing the root problem and in many cases exacerbating it. Many kids are too afraid to talk to their parents or loved ones about their self-harm problem and Girgis hopes those kids will take advantage of the experience, confidentiality and care that Kids Help Phone counsellors are ready to provide.

"There's always help out there if you choose it and no matter how bad you feel about your behaviour there's always someone out there who understands and wants to help," Girgis said.

Contact

- Kids Help Phone can be reached at 1-800-668-6868.

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Gomery blasts government's lack of transparency

John Gomery, who oversaw an inquiry into the federal sponsorship scandal, said Friday that unnecessary delays or outright denials of requests under the Access to Information Act are creating a lack of transparency in government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Charges laid in decade-old case

A Quebec woman has been charged with two counts of murder and one of attempted murder dating back more than a decade. Jacqueline Benoit, 47, appeared Saturday in a Quebec City courthouse to face charges police have connected to the province's biker gang war. Benoit is accused of the 1998 murders of Alain Bouchard and Pierre Simard and of the attempted murder of Louis Roy in 1997. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada to refill pandemic stockpile

DRUGS Canada will adjust the mix of antiviral drugs in an emergency pandemic stockpile this year, a response to concerns over the vulnerability of the main drug in the arsenal, Tamiflu, to viral resistance.

The national antiviral stockpile contains 55.7 million doses of drug, enough to treat nearly 5.6 million people. Tamiflu makes up 90 per cent of the stockpile.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

FIRE Two businesses are facing a massive cleanup after a five-alarm blaze raged through a couple of factories in east end Montreal. A cement factory and a roofing factory were destroyed in a blaze that began around 6:50 p.m. on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Afghanistan's effects

Military families experiencing increased stress

The stress of multiple tours in Afghanistan is showing, as military families at CFB Petawawa and across Canada seek help in growing numbers.

At the Phoenix Centre for Children and Families in nearby Pembroke, the military caseload has soared to 71 families — up from 12 before the deadly Kandahar mission began more than three years ago. Another 26 are on a waiting list.

They're grappling with issues ranging from anxiety-driven child behaviours like bed wetting and aggression, to domestic violence, depression and marital breakdown.

Petawawa is an epicentre of reverberating effects from repeated exposure to an always tense and sometimes horrific war zone.

Thirty-eight soldiers of the 117 Canadian troops killed in Afghanistan since 2002 were based in Petawawa.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In this file photo Sgt. Simon Litaliem gives his children, one-year-old Oliver, and three-year-old Laurie, a hug as he prepares to leave CFB Petawawa.

Family 'starting to crack' as daughter still missing

CRIME As police stepped up efforts over the weekend to solve the high-profile suspected abduction of an eight-year-old girl, stress lines deepened among family and friends of the child everyone knows as Tori despite an outpouring of community support.

Tori Stafford

Nearly a fortnight has passed since Victoria Stafford vanished after the school bell signalled home time on April 8.

"Everybody's starting to crack," Rodney Stafford, the girl's father, said over the weekend.

Provincial police took control of the investigation on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Case going to trial a fourth time?

COURTS Kelly Ellard has twice been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for taking part in the murder of 14-year-old Reena Virk in November 1997.

The Supreme Court of Canada begins hearing arguments today after the B.C. Court of Appeal overturned Ellard's latest conviction last September by ruling the judge at her third trial erred.

Six other girls have been convicted of their roles in the attack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More people die per year from diabetes than HIV/AIDS. In fact, diabetes is a leading cause of death by disease in Canada. That's because diabetes puts you at higher risk for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and other serious health complications. And research shows being of Asian, South Asian, Hispanic, Aboriginal or African Caribbean descent increases your chances of being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

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Ontario

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Fire ravages N.B. townhomes

At least 13 Saint John, N.B, people have been left homeless after an early morning fire tore through four townhomes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM misses the mark?

Observers criticize Harper's approach to summit

Prime Minister Stephen Harper joined several others in saluting U.S. President Barack Obama for his landmark speech Friday evening, in which he brought a message of partnership with the hemisphere based on mutual respect and dignity.

But Harper himself took an alternate tack at the summit, waving the banner of free trade as often as possible.

One of his final acts of the summit was to sweeten the pot for countries Canada is negotiating with, earmarking an extra $18 million in aid over five years to help them "maximize the benefits of increased trade and investment."

Some Canadian observers said Harper seemed to misread the tone of the summit, where many countries — and not just the "rogue nations" — have been feeling a strong domestic backlash against trade liberalization that has dominated the past.

Opposition to a Free Trade Area of the Americas was the principal reason the last summit fell apart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet yesterday following a group photo at the Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

News in brief

MYSTERY Skeletal human remains discovered in Thunder Bay, Ont., in May 2007 have finally been identified. Police officials say the identity of Jean Theresa McDonald was confirmed after police reviewed missing person files and DNA samples. McDonald had been missing since May 29, 1999. She was 38 at the time of her disappearance. The remains were found near the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre by a patient near a wooded area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ski jumpers' case faces many hurdles to win: Legal experts

OLYMPICS Female ski jumpers suing for a chance to compete at the 2010 Games may have a solid moral argument, but a legal one will be much tougher to prove, Olympic and legal experts say.

The case between 15 former and current ski jumpers and the Olympic organizing committee, known as VANOC, begins today in B.C. Supreme Court.

The women argue the fact that men are allowed to compete in ski jumping and they aren't violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

While on that basis it may seem like a clear-cut case of discrimination, the women must prove VANOC is subject to the Charter, which requires proving the committee is controlled by the government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers reach deal in Upper Grand, Bluewater districts
Occasional teachers at public elementary schools have reached tentative deals with the Upper Grand and Bluewater district school boards. Details have not been released pending ratification votes by members of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recession hits young workers hard

Mark Bresee had all the trappings of a successful young graduate a year ago: The plasma TV, the posh apartment and a new engineering job.

Less than a year later, the job was gone, the TV was for sale and he was living with his parents.

Bresee, 23, is part of a growing number of unemployed youth in Canada. Young people aged 15-24 who had been working full time have lost a disproportionate number of the jobs that have disappeared in this recession.

Bresee lost his engineering job at a mining consulting firm he got straight out of university.

Compared to past recessions, youths have also been tossed out of work faster and earlier.

Tough times for the young

- Youth aged 15-24 make up about 15 per cent of the labour force and lost a quarter of all full-time jobs that have disappeared in the past year.
- Almost 15 per cent of people aged 15-24 are currently unemployed, the highest rate since 1998.

Economist Pedro Antunes said the youth unemployment figures are a reflection of how quickly the economy changed. During the recession in the 1990s, youth job losses weren't significant until late in the decade. This time, youth job losses happened within just a few months of October's market crash.

But the economist with the Conference Board of Canada said youth probably won't have to suffer as long this time.

"I think this slowdown is going to be temporary, it's going to be deep and hard-hitting, but I think if we look two or three years down the road, this is not going to be the 1990s over again." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Killer's book deal outrages advocates

LAWS Convicted killer Colin Thatcher is in luck he lives in Saskatchewan. If he had moved to Alberta or Manitoba, he likely wouldn't be able to make money from the sale of his new book.

The neighbouring provinces have laws in place preventing convicted criminals from pocketing profits on the sale of their crime stories.

Colin Thatcher

Victims' rights advocate Shelley Marshall says there needs to be a law that applies across the country.

Thatcher "should not get a dime," says Marshall, president of the Manitoba Organization for Victim Assistance.

"He was found guilty of murdering the mother of his children."

Marshall's son was slain in Winnipeg in 2001. Although she agrees with freedom of speech, it pains her to think his killers could earn money for writing about the crime. "For people who have lost a loved one to homicide, they would find what (Thatcher) wishes to do at the least disappointing and at the worst reprehensible."

Word leaked last week that Thatcher has penned a 440-page memoir titled Final Appeal: Anatomy of a Frame. The book argues his innocence and details the 22 years he spent in prison. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SWORD ATTACK A Saskatoon woman who alleges she was attacked by a sword-wielding assailant admits that insults were exchanged before the incident Thursday afternoon.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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British hostage to be freed

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in an email to The Associated Press yesterday that British hostage Robin Barry Hughes, who has been held in captivity for more than six months, will be freed very soon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Crackdown on credit hikes

The Obama administration has a new target in its attempts to ensure American consumers are protected from further financial distress. Larry Summers, U.S. President Barack Obama's top economic adviser, said yesterday the administration is backing Democratic legislators in "pushing very hard" to crack down on credit card companies that hike interest rates on unsuspecting customers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aid workers kidnapped in Somalia

CONFLICT Gunmen have reportedly kidnapped two foreign aid workers in Somalia. The Medecins Sans Frontieres workers were seized in central Somalia yesterday by about 25 gunmen. A fellow aid worker says Somalian staff travelling with the two hostages were released.

One of the captives is European, but the nationality of the other is not known.

Dozens of aid workers have been killed, kidnapped or threatened in Somalia in the past year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Basque separatist leader arrested

CRIME Spain's Interior Ministry says nine suspected members of the Basque separatist group ETA, including its alleged military leader, have been arrested in joint France-Spain cross-border police raids. Jurdan Martitegi Lizaso was arrested Friday in Montauriol, France, along with two others. Six other suspected ETA members were arrested early yesterday in Spain's northern Basque region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MEXICO An official says at least 70 people have been injured in a commuter train crash on the outskirts of Mexico City. One train apparently ran into another Saturday on the recently inaugurated Suburban Railway. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama, Chavez play nice

U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday he has seen positive signs from both Cuba and Venezuela in his four-day trip to Central America, but "the test for all of us is not simply words but also deeds."

At a news conference marking the end of the Summit of the Americas, Obama added, "I do believe that the signals sent so far provide at least an opportunity for frank dialogue on a range of issues, including critical issues of democracy and human rights throughout the hemisphere."

It was Obama's first presidential trip to the region, where he shook hands with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and welcomed remarks made in Havana by Cuban President Raul Castro.

As he did on a recent trip to Europe, Obama stressed the United States is a willing partner, "inclined to listen and not just talk," in trying to advance national interests.

"We recognize that other countries have good ideas, too, and we want to hear them," he said, adding the fact that an idea comes "from a small country, like Costa Rica," should not diminish its potential benefit.

Chavez later approached Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during the summit and said he was restoring his country's ambassador in Washington, voicing hopes for a new era in relations.

Chavez, an ally of Cuba, expelled the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela in September in solidarity with leftist Bolivian President Evo Morales, who ordered out the top U.S. diplomat in his country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Overnight leap

- Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent, written by Uruguayan journalist Eduardo Galeano, jumped up to No. 5 on Amazon.com yesterday. The book was previously ranked 54,295.

EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, right, hands U.S. President Barack Obama the book The Open Veins of Latin America by Eduardo Galeano during a meeting at the Summit of the Americas on Saturday in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Israel **Holocaust Memorial Day**

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israelis visit the Hall of Names at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem yesterday. The annual Israeli memorial day for the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust of the Second World War begins at sundown today.

Haitians raid, boycott Senate polling stations

ELECTION Armed United Nations soldiers, observers and journalists far outnumbered a trickle of voters in the capital of Haiti as long-delayed Senate elections opened yesterday under threat of unrest.

Hundreds of protesters raided polling places and dumped ballots in the streets of Mirebalais, effectively halting voting, according to Radio Metropole. One man was arrested with two pistols and a shotgun for shooting randomly, said Garry Desrosiers, a Haitian national police spokesman. No one was injured.

Authorities didn't know who was responsible for the demonstrations.

Security forces, including 9,000 UN peacekeepers, had braced for demonstrations by supporters of former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party, whose candidates were disqualified by Haiti's provisional electoral council.

Port-au-Prince remained quiet in early voting as Lavalas supporters encouraged voters to stay home.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

- A total of 79 candidates are vying for 12 Senate seats. Each seat has five to 18 candidates.

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Police to lay charges after five children killed in car crash
Police in Texas say they plan to charge the driver of a vehicle that plunged into a rain-swollen ditch, killing five children, with three counts of intoxication manslaughter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian ship chases pirates

U.S. boat joins pursuit after attack on Norwegian tanker

A Canadian and a U.S. warship pursued Somali pirates for seven hours after they attacked a Norwegian tanker in the Gulf of Aden.

The chase ended when warning shots were fired at the pirates' skiff, NATO spokesmen said yesterday.

Seven pirates attempted to attack the Norwegian-flagged MV Front Ardenne late Saturday, but fled after crew took evasive manoeuvres and alerted warships in the area, said Portuguese Lt. Cmdr. Alexandre Santos Fernandes, aboard a warship in the Gulf of Aden, and Cmdr. Chris Davies, of NATO's maritime headquarters in England.

> **"How the attack was thwarted is unclear, it appears to have been the actions of the tanker."** Cmdr. Chris Davies, NATO

"How the attack was thwarted is unclear, it appears to have been the actions of the tanker," Davies said. No shots were fired at the tanker.

Davies said the pirates sailed into the path of the Canadian warship HMCS Winnipeg, which was escorting a World Food Program delivery ship through the Gulf of Aden. The American ship USS Halyburton was also in the area and joined the chase.

Both ships deployed helicopters, and naval officers hailed the pirates over loudspeakers and finally fired warning shots to stop them, Fernandes said, but not before the pirates had dumped most of their weapons overboard. NATO forces boarded the skiff, where they found a rocket-propelled grenade, and interrogated, disarmed and released the pirates.

The pirates' release underscores the difficulties navies have in fighting rampant piracy off the coast of lawless Somalia. Most of the time, foreign navies simply disarm and release the pirates they catch due to legal complications and logistical difficulties in transporting pirates and witnesses to court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Africa **Lending his support**

THE MIRA HADDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former South African president Nelson Mandela, centre, arrives for the final election rally at the Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. Mandela made an unannounced appearance at the African National Congress' last major rally before parliamentary elections, a boost for the party after an internal power struggle and scandals surrounding its presidential candidate.

Dalai Lama's nephew finishes 'Walk for Tibet'

U.S. The Dalai Lama's nephew has finished a 1,450-kilometre walk across the United States to protest against what he calls Chinese suppression of Tibetans.

After the four-week trek from Indiana to New York, Jigme Norbu's feet were full of painful blisters and missing nails and the feeling in one toe.

> **"I feel energized, because the cause itself energizes me."** Jigme Norbu

"But I feel energized, because the cause itself energizes me," Norbu said Saturday, a day after emerging from New Jersey through the Lincoln Tunnel.

Capping his "Walk for Tibet," Norbu led a noon rally Saturday in front of the Chinese consulate on Manhattan's West Side.

He started his walk in Indianapolis on March 10, marking the 50th anniversary of a failed Tibetan rebellion against Chinese rule that resulted in the exile of the Dalai Lama in India.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PAKISTAN Suspected U.S. missiles levelled a Taliban compound in Pakistan yesterday, killing three people despite militant threats of suicide bombings if the strikes don't end, officials said.

BRITAIN Prince Charles was accused by a group of leading architects yesterday of abusing his royal position to attack plans to redevelop a former army barracks in London.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. Homeland Security head apologizes over warning

U.S. Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano says she regrets that some people took offence over a report warning that right-wing extremist groups were trying to recruit disgruntled troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Racism conference racist?

The United Nations opens its first global racism conference in eight years today with Canada, Israel, the United States and at least three other countries boycotting the event out of concern that Muslim countries will demand that it denounce Israel and ban criticism of Islam.

Canada has said the conference will promote racism, not combat it.

Britain said it will send diplomats despite concerns the meeting could become a forum for Holocaust denial or anti-Semitic attacks.

The major sticking points of the proposed final UN declaration are its implied criticism of Israel and an attempt by Muslim governments to ban all criticism of Islam, Shariah law, the Prophet Muhammad and other tenets of their faith.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad — who has repeatedly called for the destruction of Israel and denied the Holocaust — is slated to speak the first day.

The possible pullout of Germany would be significant as it has played a leading role in UN anti-racism efforts. In recent meetings, it has expressed dismay about some governments' attempts to downplay the significance of the Holocaust. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS, POOL

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrives for a meeting with Swiss President Hans-Rudolf Merz in Geneva yesterday.

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10 years since Columbine massacre

ANNIVERSARY Many survivors of the Columbine High School shooting have moved on to careers in education, medicine, ministry, or retail.

But emotional scars still can trigger anxiety, nightmares and deeply etched recollections of gunfire, blood and bodies.

"People have been able to have 10 years to reconcile what happened and see what fits in their life and who they are," said Kristi Mohrbacher of Littleton, who fled Columbine as the gunfire erupted. "It's kind of a part of who I am today. I think my priorities might be a little bit different if I hadn't had that experience."

Just after 11 a.m. on April 20, 1999, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, stormed the suburban school, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding about two dozen others. The shooting ended with the gunmen's suicides nearly an hour later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Journalist to get full appeal

COURTS Iran's president said yesterday that an American journalist convicted of spying for the U.S. should be allowed to offer a full defence during her appeal, a day after she was sentenced to eight years in prison. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sent a letter to Tehran's chief prosecutor instructing him to personally ensure that "suspects be given all their rights to defend themselves" against the charges, the state news agency IRNA reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

VATICAN Pope Benedict made an appearance at the papal vacation retreat in Castel Gandolfo to thank Catholics for many good wishes for his 82nd birthday and the fourth anniversary of his election to the papacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Everyone needs a hobby

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

SunnySide

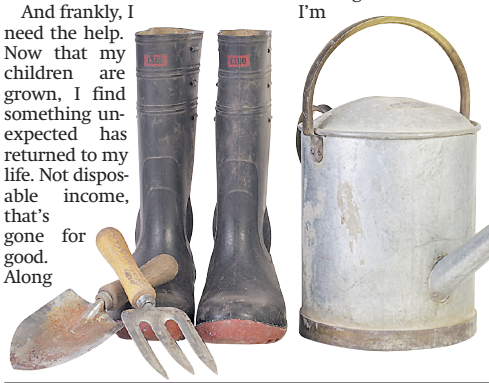
On the web

How to participate

- Suggest a hobby for Anne at **contests@metronews.ca**

It's contest time! This contest is called, "Help Anne choose a hobby." What could be more fun? Well … choosing a hobby for yourself. That would be way more fun. But, will it win you one of the fabulous prizes listed below? I think not.

And frankly, I need the help. Now that my children are grown, I find something unexpected has returned to my life. Not disposable income, that's gone for good. Along with my stomach muscles, memory and the ability to get through a day without humming the Teletubbies theme song.



But what I do have now and then, is a whole spare 10 or 15 minutes to do something for myself. Clearly, I'm ready for a hobby.

I do go to the gym. I thought that was my hobby. Then I found out the definition of "hobby" isn't "an activity you'd rather gnaw your own arm off then have to do on a regular basis."

I'm hoping Metro readers can help me find something better.

The guidelines:

1) It cannot involve a large outlay of cash. So, piloting a small aircraft or buying fashionable yoga gear is out.

2) It's best to avoid activities that involve using or being in the vicinity of sharp objects. I tried gardening once and ended up getting a twig stuck in my eye and having to be rushed to the hospital. Gardening is not really the relaxing activity it's made out to be.

3) It should not involve eating icky, unidentifiable things. This rules out becoming a contestant on Survivor or taking up vegan cooking.

4) It should, ideally, be legal.

5) No tatting. I can't imagine saying, "Oh yes, I tat." I just can't.

Other than that, the field's wide open.

Anyone who has an interesting, cheap, non-threatening, non-icky, legal hobby, I'd like to hear about it. I'll choose a winner and give your suggestion a go.

Now, the prize. It was going to be a mug. Not just any mug. A Metro newspaper mug. But I decided against that on the basis that we don't have any.

I considered giving away my own mug. It's from the Elvis Presley Inn, Jerusalem. I was even prepared to wash it before I mailed it.

However, Metro has graciously donated logoed pens and chocolates. I know. I'm a little breathless myself.

So. Hobbies. Help me out at contests@metronews.ca. And let the games, or crocheting or Middle Eastern European stamp collecting, begin.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Metro Online Poll Results

45% SAID Carbon tax	Which is a better way to cut greenhouse gas emissions? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	55% SAID Cap and trade

Views

Solving commuter conundrum not easy

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

Quick tip

- Air Miles can now be used toward a TTC Metropass: see airmiles.ca/myplanet and click on Rewards.

It's not easy to predict how we will get around in 25 years, but it might be wise to plan for some "just in case" scenarios. For one, suppose gas costs 10-times what it does today? We can take steps to avoid the upheaval or just wait and see, hoping to adapt quickly when change occurs.

A quarter century from now, projections show a majority of commuters will still drive to work — thanks to decades of building car-friendly suburbs transit cannot adequately serve. Intensification will help some, but our urban form has largely been set.

When it comes to switching the fuel that powers our vehicles, the auto industry has resisted change — but the transit world is not much better. It's true a bus can generally carry more people with less fuel, except modern cars are so efficient older buses look like pollution-mobiles in comparison.

Things might have been different. Toronto once had a modest electric trolleybus network, but the TTC let it fall into disrepair. The commission dumped its fleet of no-emission vehicles in the early 1990s and has since made a series of ill-advised decisions on alternate fuels. The TTC is back to buying diesel buses, but may try hybrid-electric models again — once reliable batteries are found.

Toronto residents who live near transit terminals are especially interested in quiet, fume-free buses. Alas, it seems current hybrids cannot simply run on battery instead of idling and a recent TTC test found some mechanical — and personnel — obstacles to turning buses off while in stations.

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

And let's not forget the other major debate in fuelling vehicles — how the energy is produced. Every type has knocks against it. Even wind and solar power have their detractors. So unless you can bike or walk to your destination, there's no easy answer to this commuting conundrum.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

Worth mentioning

Canadians swallowing almost $30B in drugs

Canadians are forking out close to $30 billion a year to stock their medicine cabinets with prescription and over-the-counter medications, says an annual report on drug spending released Thursday.

That works out to an average of almost $900 per person across the country, concluded the Canadian Institute for Health Information report on estimated 2008 drug costs outside hospitals.

The report shows last year's drug expenditures accounted for 17.4 per cent of total health costs — nearly double the proportion that drug spending claimed in 1985 when the institute began compiling and publishing such data.

"Typically, and this has been a pattern really for the last 10 years, drugs are certainly the fastest-growing component of health expenditure," said Michael Hunt, CIHI manager of pharmaceutical programs.

Drug spending grew by an estimated eight per cent in 2008 over the previous year, outstripping the six per cent rate of growth in what is paid out for hospitals and doctors.

"So it's really not in line with what we see for physician spending, hospital spending and actually the overall increase in health expenditure," Hunt said from Ottawa.

"I always think of drug expenditure as having reached critical mass many years ago," he said. "In health we talk about billions quite easily, but we're seeing more than $2 billion a year's growth in overall drug expenditure year to year."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Former Bank of England governor Eddie George dead

Former Bank of England governor Eddie George died of cancer Saturday at the age of 70. He headed the bank between 1993 and 2003 and was in charge when it was given independent authority to set interest rates in 1998. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

Mexico gets $47B line of credit

The International Monetary Fund says it approved a $47-billion US flexible credit line for Mexico. The one-year credit line is meant to back Mexican reserves and boost confidence in its slowing economy. A Friday statement from the IMF praises Mexico's economic fundamentals and recent policy decisions, but says the world economic crisis means even robust economies need help. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

RYAN REMIORZ/CP

AbitibiBowater's head office in Montreal on Thursday.

Bankruptcy protection for forestry giant

ABITIBIBOWATER Troubled forestry giant AbitibiBowater Inc., which has more than 11,000 employees in Canada, has been granted bankruptcy protection in both Canada and the U.S.

AbitibiBowater said it had no choice because it couldn't get its debt problems under control.

The eighth largest publicly traded pulp and paper manufacturer in the world has been delisted by the New York Stock Exchange. The Toronto Stock Exchange, where trading in the company is currently suspended, has served notice it will delist AbitibiBowater shares next month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tweet from pal or sales pitch?

Tweeters take note: If your friends have been tweeting about Skype, an iPod or Cisco cellphones lately, they might not be doing it because they're concerned consumers.

A service called Magpie is recruiting Twitter users to let advertisers send out messages through their accounts for cash.

Rapidly growing social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook make advertisers salivate because of the wealth of personal data they accumulate.

Facebook is already making money by turning users' profile information into a massive marketing survey and letting companies use it to create individually tailored ads.

With vast and growing armies of twitterers — and Twitter's increasing importance as a professional networking tool — there is a concern about the transparency of what's being peddled by sponsors rather than users.

Magpie is not affiliated with Twitter. But Marshall Kirkpatrick, the head writer for the tech blog ReadWriteWeb, said the way Magpie is using the site to make money shows the potential for social media to take its business model in a disturbing direction.

Online ads are nothing new, but the difference is disclosure. There's a "presumption of authentic voice" in Twitter messages, said Kirkpatrick.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tweets about Magpie users

- The amount of money users can earn is based on how many followers they have and what they're tweeting about.
- Users have to make about $80 before they get paid.
- There are more than 1,000 companies who use the service; about 50 are Canadian.
- 80,000 of the two million people who follow Magpie users on Twitter are Canadian.

Follow Metro on Twitter for news updates and more: @metrotoronto

Business in brief

TOP FIRM Exxon Mobil has unseated Wal-Mart at the top of the 2009 Fortune 500 list after a year the magazine called the worst ever for America's 500 largest publicly traded companies. Exxon took the No. 1 spot with $442.85 billion US in revenue in 2008. Wal-Mart had held the top spot for six of the last seven years. The retail giant slipped to No. 2, with $405.6 billion in revenue. Fortune said earnings for the 500 companies on its closely watched list fell 85 per cent — the biggest one-year decline in its 55-year history.

MADOFF A former employee of hedge fund manager J. Ezra Merkin claims Merkin was warned about Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff years before losing tens of millions of dollars of investors' money in Madoff's Ponzi scheme, court papers show. New York University filed the documents as part of its lawsuit against Merkin and his Gabriel Capital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warmer weather normally brings ramped up demand for gas.

Summer road trips without gas price shock, experts say

TRAVEL Filling up is expected to be relatively cheap this summer — unlike last year's $1.40 per litre that outraged drivers.

Industry observers are predicting a relatively subdued summer driving season, which runs from May to September, as consumers keep a closer watch on their spending.

"You may see a little bit of a spike, say about five cents a litre ... But, all in all, I see where prices are today is where they're going to stay throughout the summer," said Roger McKnight, senior petroleum adviser for En-Pro International in Oshawa

Jason Toews, co-founder of price-tracking website GasBuddy.com, is predicting a bump in pump prices over the next couple of weeks before the Victoria Day long weekend, peaking at somewhere around $1.05 per litre.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investors looking for rally to go on

STOCKS Investors are hoping to extend the spring rally into a seventh week. Canadian and U.S. markets have advanced for six weeks leaving the TSX's main index and the Dow industrials ahead around 25 per cent since the rally took root on March 10.

"I'm looking for the next cyclical bull to start at some time in the not too distant future ... and maybe this is it," said Danielle Park at Venable Park Investment Counsel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jamaica launches work-abroad plan

JOBS Jamaica plans to train laid-off workers for jobs in agriculture, hospitality and construction in the U.S. and Canada through a work-abroad program. About 13,000 have lost their jobs since December.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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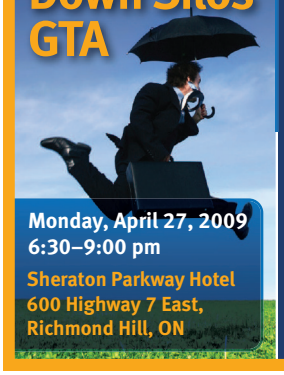

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Going Green

Fossil fuels also form smog

Global warming is not the only reason we should reduce our fossil fuel emissions. The burning of fossil fuels releases air pollutants. Some of these compounds can then form airborne particles and ground-level ozone — which, combined together, is commonly referred to as smog. Increased levels of exposure to smog may cause congestion, difficulty breathing and asthma attacks. DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Simple ways to celebrate

One billion people expected to take part in Earth Day activities

EARTH DAY: APRIL 22
Go Green

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

It's Earth Day on Wednesday, and while saving the planet is serious business, you may as well have fun while you're at it. Globally, one billion people in 170 countries are expected to join the celebration of the planet we all live on, organizers say.

Kelly Magill, editor of Positively Green magazine, has some tips for ordinary families to join the party. She treats it like a birthday and recommends parents take their kids on a planetary adventure.

"Just get outside! Go to a park or on a hike. Take a picnic with you and spend the day investigating nature," she says. "If you have bikes, take a family bike ride. Getting comfortable with biking when you're young makes it easier to bike instead of drive when you're an adult."

If you live near a zoo or wildlife park, take your family there to instill a sense of love and respect for animals, she suggests. In a similar vein, go on a strawberry picking adventure and bring the fruit home to enjoy.

There are many ways you can celebrate Earth Day, including starting a garden in your backyard or in a container in your home.

"This activity really makes our connection to the Earth clear."

An easier option is to visit your local farmers' market. Building this connection between the Earth and what we eat makes it easier to understand why protecting the planet is important, she explains.

Magill recently finished making a batch of soap with her family.

"Families used to make all of their own 'beauty' products and they knew exactly what was in them," she explains. "You can find easy recipes on the web."

It doesn't take long and it also makes bath time more fun.

For a more ambitious project, start a garden in your backyard or in a container in your house.

"Let your child choose what to plant. This way, they're more likely to eat it. Don't get too ambitious — choose two or three things to plant," she says. "You and your child can check on your garden throughout the spring and summer and harvest what you've grown together."

A simpler idea is to set up a bird feeder.

"Spring means baby birds and feeding," Magill says. "You'll see all kinds of birds visiting your feeder."

Websites

- Go to Earthday.ca to find local Earth Day events or visit Positivelygreen.com for more tips on green living.

Green Home Index tracks behaviours

RATING The Canadian Green Home Index, developed by Environics Research for The Home Depot Canada, has assigned Canadians a moderate 60 out of 100 rating in its inaugural release. Based on a basket of five questions, the Canadian Green Home Index tracks Canadian attitudes and behaviours as a means to measure progress toward greening their homes.

"Canadians want to be more environmentally-friendly, but it's an ongoing process to change these important behaviours," said Annette Verschuren, president, The Home Depot Canada and Asia. "We believe this index provides a real opportunity to add to the green discussion so we can support further change and provide consumers with the tools they need to do more." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Numbers

- A majority of Canadians (68 per cent) rate their home as "somewhat green." A further 13 per cent believe their homes are "very green." But an even stronger majority (83 per cent) acknowledge they have room to improve — and are keen to make their homes even greener than they are today.

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I'M THINKING Future Friendly

Nestor, Zimonjic dominate in victory

Toronto's Daniel Nestor and Serbian partner Nenad Zimonjic won the Monte Carlo Masters men's doubles title yesterday, sweeping past top-seeded Americans Bob and Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-1 in a match that lasted just 47 minutes. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

The Iceman doneth?

After being knocked out by Mauricio (Shogun) Rua at UFC 97 in Montreal Saturday, Chuck (The Iceman) Liddell is finished, according to UFC president Dana White. "You're never going to see Chuck Liddell on the canvas again," White said. "It's done." Rua knocked out Liddell 4:28 into the first round. In another fight, Anderson Silva set a UFC record for most wins in the Octagon with an uninspired decision over Thales Leites. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Romero pitches Jays to 10th win

AL RESULT

Athletics 0 Blue Jays 1

VS

The Blue Jays won their fourth straight series yesterday and the credit this time belongs to their pitching.

Rookie Ricky Romero delivered a third consecutive impressive outing with seven shutout innings while Lyle Overbay's RBI single in the second stood as the difference in a 1-0 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Scott Downs pitched a scoreless eighth while B.J. Ryan nailed things down in the ninth for his second save as the Blue Jays (10-4) took two of three from the Athletics (5-7) to match their best start since 2001.

It's also the first time in franchise history they've ever won four straight series of three games or more to start a season, a streak they'll try to extend when the Texas Rangers visit for three starting tomorrow.

Romero (2-0) played a key role in helping that happen, allowing just four hits and two walks while striking out six.

His key stat of the day, however, was the seven innings he pitched, helping rest a bullpen that threw 6⅔ scoreless innings in Saturday's 4-2, 12-inning win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 3
Vancouver 3 St. Louis 2
New Jersey 3 Carolina 2 (OT)
Anaheim at San Jose

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Boston at Montreal
Washington at N.Y. Rangers
Chicago at Calgary

NBA

PLAYOFFS
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

L.A. Lakers 113 Utah 100
Philadelphia 100 Orlando 98
Atlanta 90 Miami 64
New Orleans at Denver

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Chicago at Boston
Dallas at San Antonio

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
TORONTO	10	4	.692	-
New York	7	6	.538	2
Baltimore	6	6	.500	3
Boston	6	6	.500	3
Tampa Bay	5	8	.385	4

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 1 Oakland 0
Boston 2 Baltimore 1
Chicago White Sox 12 Tampa Bay 2
Detroit 8 Seattle 2
Minnesota 3 L.A. Angels 1
N.Y. Yankees 7 Cleveland 3
Texas 6 Kansas City 5
Atlanta 11 Pittsburgh 1
Cincinnati 4 Houston 2
Florida 7 Washington 4
L.A. Dodgers 14 Colorado 2
Milwaukee 4 N.Y. Mets 2
Philadelphia 5 San Diego 4
San Francisco 2 Arizona 0
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs PPD

MLS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

FC Dallas 3 TORONTO FC 2
Houston 1 Colorado 0

Canucks take stranglehold; Flyers go old school

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs

For a recap of the Ducks/Sharks game, visit metronews.ca

Roberto Luongo carried the Vancouver Canucks for two games. Specialty teams helped them take a 3-0 series lead against the St. Louis Blues.

The Canucks scored three power-play goals, including Steve Bernier's go-ahead score in the opening minute of the third period, while again stifling their opponents' chances with the man advantage in a 3-2 victory last night.

Vancouver, the third seed in the Western Conference, silenced a standing-room crowd of 19,500 for the Blues' first home playoff game in five seasons. The Canucks can finish off the sixth-seeded Blues in Game 4 tomorrow night in St. Louis. Mattias Ohlund and Daniel Sedin also scored power-play goals for the Canucks, who were strong the last two periods after mustering five shots and trailing 1-0 after the first.

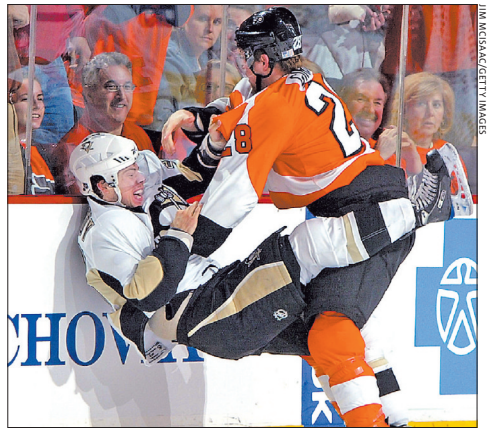
And Luongo, who allowed one goal on 56 shots the first two games, made 24 saves and was good enough even if he wasn't the star that prompted a fans' "LuonGO Home" sign. Mats Sundin sat out the game with a lower-body injury.

FLYERS 6, PENGUINS 3

The Philadelphia Flyers showed flashes of the old Broad Street Bullies spirit that revved up the crowd, jolted the offence and got them back in their playoff series against Pittsburgh.

Jeff Carter and Mike Richards scored their first goals of the series early for a sorely needed fast start. Claude Giroux and Simon Gagne put the Flyers ahead for good in a 6-3 victory over the Penguins yesterday. Pittsburgh leads the opening-round series 2-1 and Game 4 is tomorrow night in Philadelphia.

Carter scored his first of the post-season three minutes into the game, and Richards made it two goals on two shots for the Flyers 2:15 later.



JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Claude Giroux of the Flyers takes down Pittsburgh's Tyler Kennedy yesterday.

DEVILS 3, HURRICANES 2 (OT)

Travis Zajac scored at 4:58 of overtime and the New Jersey Devils beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-2 last night in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference playoff series.

Zach Parise scored for the third straight game and assisted on Zajac's winner, giving the Devils a 2-1 series lead and helping them bounce back from an overtime loss two nights earlier on home ice by turning the tables on the Hurricanes.

Game 4 is tomorrow night in North Carolina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

NCAA Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino says he is the victim of an extortion attempt and has contacted the FBI. Pitino reported threats to authorities last month, and the FBI is investigating, the university said in a statement. The statement did not specify the nature of the threats.

NHL Milan Lucic of the Boston Bruins has been suspended for Game 3 of the Bruins-Canadiens series tonight after cross-checking Habs forward Maxim LaPierre in the head in the closing minutes of Boston's 5-1 win Saturday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

G11

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Audible trash talk from Canucks has Vancouverites voicing their opinions

MINÉ SALKIN
for Metro Canada

STANLEY CUP
2009 Playoffs

NHL Sean Avery's controversial "sloppy seconds" comment about other players' girlfriends got him suspended from the National Hockey League.

Will Alex Burrows and Ryan Kesler from the Vancouver Canucks face a similar fate for their agitating comments about a Blues' girlfriend?

Burrows and Kesler were heard on the CBC broadcast making agitating comments about David Backes' partner during Game 1 of their first-round playoff series on Wednesday in Vancouver.

The clip later appeared on YouTube.

"Hey, Kelly's a great gal," Burrows yelled.

Centre Ryan Kesler piped up right after with a "Tell Kelly I said 'Hi.'"

Kyle Lescisin, a former goalie for the Simon Fraser University hockey team, said Burrows went too far.

Burrows

"I think that insulting the family of the players is crossing a line," Lescisin said.

"The league should give him a warning at the very least."

Everton on to FA Cup Final

Everton reached the FA Cup final against Chelsea by beating Manchester United 4-2 in a penalty shootout yesterday after the two sides played to a 0-0 draw at Wembley. The Toffees will return to face the Blues May 30. Chelsea beat Arsenal 2-1 in Saturday's semifinal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sixers shock Magic

NBA 2009 Playoffs

Andre Iguodala made a 22-foot jumper with 2.2 seconds left and the Philadelphia 76ers rallied from an 18-point deficit to stun the Orlando Magic 100-98 in Game 1 of their opening-round playoff series yesterday.

Iguodala had 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Louis Williams scored 18 to help the 76ers beat the Magic for the first time in four tries this season — and when it mattered most. Hedo Turkoglu's fadeaway three-pointer missed at the buzzer, and Magic fans stood in disbelief before filing out quietly.

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night in Orlando.

JOHN RAOUX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sixers centre Samuel Dalembert of Montreal goes up over Orlando's Courtney Lee yesterday.

L.A. LAKERS 113, JAZZ 100

The Los Angeles Lakers won the West in a runaway and they stuck to a similar script in their playoff opener. Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, Trevor Ariza added 21 and Pau Gasol 20 as Los Angeles defeated the Utah Jazz 113-100 yesterday.

Bryant's total gave him 3,710 career post-season points, moving him past Magic Johnson and into ninth on the NBA's list. He trails only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (4,070) and Jerry West (4,457) for most points in the playoffs with the Lakers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For recaps of the Heat/Hawks and Hornets/Nuggets games, visit metronews.ca

TFC falls short in Dallas

MLS RESULT

Toronto FC 2 FC Dallas 3

Kenny Cooper scored twice, including the go-ahead goal on a penalty kick in the 84th minute to lift FC Dallas to its first victory of the season, 3-2 over Toronto FC last night.

Dallas (1-3-1) was awarded the penalty kick after Toronto FC defender Marvell Wynne was called for a hand ball inside the penalty area.

Cooper converted from the 12-yard spot by placing a shot past goalkeeper Stefan Frei into the left corner of the net.

Chad Barrett's goal in the 59th minute evened the game at two as Toronto FC (1-1-2) erased a two-goal deficit. Fuad Ibrahim started the scoring sequence on Barrett's goal with a cross from beyond midfield to Amado Guevara, who headed a pass to Barrett.

Toronto FC's Dwayne De Rosario scored the team's first goal in first-half stoppage time when he knocked in a shot off the left hand of FC Dallas goalkeeper Ray Burse that inched over the goal-line. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN GULLERY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FC Dallas goalkeeper Ray Burse blocks a shot attempt by Dwayne De Rosario.

Canada goes with Hart

SOCCER Canada's men's soccer team will have a familiar face patrolling the sidelines at this summer's Gold Cup tournament, and Stephen Hart is all too familiar with the difficulties the squad is facing. Hart, who's already the Canadian Soccer Association's technical director, was named interim head coach Friday for the team through 2009, marking the second time he's acted as interim boss for the CONCACAF tournament. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In an exclusive interview, It's Called Football is joined by Stephen Hart at metronews.ca/blogs

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Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here is Lincoln, the two-year-old Black Lab mix, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

College grads finding jobs

According to new Key Performance Indicators released yesterday by Colleges Ontario, nearly 89 per cent of last year's college graduates in the province secured employment within six months of graduating. Almost 83 per cent of graduates were satisfied with the usefulness of their education in achieving their goals post-graduation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

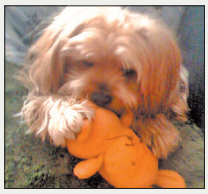
Metro readers' best friends

Paws and Claws feature

• Metro would like thank everyone who has sent in a picture of their pet, we'll try to publish as many as we can throughout the month of April.

This is Sophie, the Terrier Bassett Hound mix.

Here's (another) Sophie having fun in the sun.



Here's Louie the Yorkshire Terrier with his favourite toy.

Here's Boo, the rescued Poodle.

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Take a bite out of crime

Never underestimate police dogs, K-9 officer says

Paws and **Claws**

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Dutch bursts out of the police truck with his teeth ripped back in a vicious snarl. The German Shepherd's blood's up and pity anything that gets between him and the crook. Anything but the slobbery toy Const. Paul Jessen holds out, instantly turning the fierce beast into a puppy.

Jessen got Dutch when he was 11 months old, and the dog already had a chip on his shoulder. That's part of what makes the 85-pound K-9 cop such a valuable partner.

"They do have that aggressive streak when you need it. There are times when you have to arrest somebody and they're not about to be arrested," the Halifax Regional Police cop explains.

Jessen's been with the police for 21 years and in the K-9 unit for 13. He's on his third dog, and he's seen them sniff out some well-hidden bad guys.

Jessen and his dog once arrived late on the scene of a stolen van. The thieves had ditched the vehicle and fled on foot.

"It was a parking lot, which is more difficult for the dogs because the hard surface doesn't retain the scent as well as grass or woods," he says. "He went right to a dumpster a half kilometre away. We looked inside and sure enough, they were inside. It was a mother and son team."

Many police dogs are German Shepherds. Const. Paul Jessen, a K-9 officer, says most police dogs work for about eight years before they go into retirement.

A lot of people are very surprised. They're not expecting to be caught. They are German Shepherds and they do have huge teeth." Const. Paul Jessen

Most criminals underestimate the dog's nose, which can track down explosives, narcotics and evidence, as well as people.

"A lot of people are very surprised. They're not expecting to be caught," he says. "They are German Shepherds and they do have huge teeth."

Cops and canines work and live together. Dutch's insulated dog house is in Jessen's backyard, so he quickly adjusts to the weather. He's about halfway through his eight-year working life.

"Then, they start showing their age. The work is fairly punishing for them. It's punishing for us, too," Jessen says. In retirement, the dogs often become pure pets for the handlers, or they find another home for them.

Not all are as ill-tempered as Dutch. Jessen took his retired German Shepherd to visit his three-year-old nephew. "He was all over him, and he doesn't care at all. I wouldn't do that with (Dutch). He's got personal space issues."

For more of the Paws and Claws exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:
metronews.ca/work

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Local students finish second in auto show competition
North York students Kevin Birchall and Eric Salb from Northview Heights Secondary School placed second in the 2009 National Automotive Technology Competition at the New York International Auto Show. The team was helped by Centennial College professors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Talking your way into a new career

Avon sales representative enjoys the endless interactions with a variety of people

Avon representative Holly Perreault says its not a bad idea to wear the products you are trying to sell to potential customers.

Holly Perreault used to pull her hair into a ponytail, wash her face and go in the morning.

Now, the 42-year-old from Windsor, Ont., always dons a smart outfit and a little makeup. That's because she feels great about herself and her job. But also, as a full-time Avon salesperson, it doesn't hurt to use the products you sell.

Three years ago, she was doing something completely different. She ran a home daycare and kept busy with that and her three daughters, the youngest of which is now six.

A girlfriend who sold Avon suggested Perreault give it a try. Perreault agreed — eager to get some free stuff and make a little cash.

In that first year, she did well selling to family and friends and made it into the company's President's Club. After the awards banquet, her manager took her out for lunch.

"What do you want to do with this?" she asked. Knowing her youngest was about to enter grade one, and loving both the products and the endless chance to interact with people, Perreault had her answer. She cleared two days each week to go out and train with her manager.

Last September, she shut down her home daycare and got to work recruiting both customers and Avon salespeople to work under her. Today, she has a team of a hundred salespeople, a good-sized roster of clients who order from Avon regularly and has been promoted to executive unit leader.

"A typical day for me is talking, and talking," Perreault says. She often meets with team members to discuss business strategies, and she and other representatives attend frequent training sessions and workshops held by Avon. They also go door to door.

And while she's out doing everything from shopping at the mall to attending one of her daughter's soccer games, she's constantly talking to people.

"My goal every time I go out is to find a new customer or to find a new rep that would like to join Avon."

At first, it was tough for her to ring doorbells and talk to strangers all the time. But practice, her love of people, and her psychology degree all helped. As does the business skills she learned managing restaurants, which she did before her eldest daughter, now 15, was born.

In fact, most of her past experience has led up this job, she sees in retrospect.

"I never in a million years imaged when I started out and sold a few mascaras that it would become my full time career."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Avon representative
Salary: About $50,000 a year
Education/Training: One-on-one help, workshops and courses offered by Avon and its staff.
Best part of the job: "Knowing I'm helping somebody else make or save money. And having three daughters, showing them that if you work hard, you can get rewarded for it."
Worst part of the job: "Not having enough hours in the day."

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Oshawa student apartment funding approved
Last Thursday, Oshawa city council approved the final piece of a funding package that will allow the construction of a $27-million student apartment building in the city. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Saving our feathered friends from bad homes

Group has rescued and adopted out more than 500 parrots

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Parrot Adopt founder Nancy Daniels with Spike and Dixie. Daniels travels around Ontario to help educate people about how to properly care for parrots.

When neglected parrots get to be too much for their owners to handle, a rescue is in order.

Nancy Daniels, founder of Parrot Adopt Southern Ontario, has made it her mission to save parrots from bad circumstances and help them find homes where they can live better lives.

Daniels, 48, grew up surrounded by parrots as a child and as a result has always been comfortable around them. She started Parrot Adopt 10 years ago when she realized few options existed for rescuing neglected parrots and many of the organizations that did exist were set up more like prisons than rehabilitation centres.

"I found there was a real need for rescues and what was missing was a lot of the behaviour work," she said.

Since opening, Parrot Adopt has rescued and adopted out more than 500 parrots, no small feat for a non-profit care facility run out of Daniels' own home with. She runs the organization with help from her husband Brett and says keeping the parrots in her home with her family lets the birds receive the attention and love they need, especially since parrots can make for difficult pets for untrained owners.

Parrots can be very loud, they tend to be messy and they need to be fed both fresh and dried food regularly, while also requiring a large cage. They are also one of the longest-lived species of pet, capable of living 40 to 80 years, meaning taking on a parrot is a huge commitment.

Unruly parrots often develop bad habits like biting and screaming because of lack of owner education about their care and, in the worst cases, abuse.

In times of great stress and anxiety, parrots will obsessively pluck out their own feathers. Daniels has seen some heart-wrenching cases in her time — one parrot she adopted herself has lost all her feathers permanently.

Other sad stories abound among the dozens of parrots Daniels keeps — one large Macaw named Rocky came from a drug house where he was seldom fed and never kept clean. Another smaller bird has a paralyzed beak and chronic ear and eye infections from metal poisoning he got by chewing his cage bars.

Daniels says that while she will always accept a rescue in dire need, her preference is to help educate owners to be able to keep their pets and be happy with them.

"We try to help people keep their pets, to change their behaviour and to change the relationship," she said.

Daniels travels to schools across Ontario to educate people about the care and joy of parrots and hopes to instill in people a love for the feathered friends.

"They are some of the sweetest, most affectionate animals around. They want to be part of a family," Daniels said.

More information

- For more information on the work Nancy Daniels and Parrot Adopt Southern Ontario to help rescue parrots go to parrotadoptontario.com

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Prof wins TVO competition

Rod Carley, a theatre arts professor at Canadore College, has won TVO's 2009 Big Ideas Best Lecturer competition. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Just because you have survived job cuts, does not mean you there isn't more you can do to try and thrive in your career while keeping your sanity intact.

Survive and thrive in a stressful workplace

Sure, you're grateful that you still have a job.

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Ask yourself, "How do I contribute to the company's bottom line?" says Connie Podesta, author of How To Be The Person Successful Companies Fight To Keep.

"How you respond says a lot about how your company sees you," said Podesta. "If you say, 'I'm just a receptionist,' why would your company see you differently?"

Podesta said now is the time to come up with ideas and action plans that are tied to the financial stability and growth of the company.

Be sure to blow your own horn, she said. Some companies are so big that your hard work could go unnoticed.

Network inside the company. The person making future layoff decisions may not be your immediate manager, said Brad Karsh of JobBound.com.

To him or her, you may simply be a name on a sheet of paper. Or that senior person may have met you once and it was a day you weren't looking your best, he said.

"If you happen to know that senior VP, that could be the difference in you staying or going," he said.

Work smart, not necessarily harder.

Companies don't necessarily fire slackers first, said Michael Barr of The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. They are often looking to cut positions rather than people.

If you are feeling overworked, collaborate with your supervisor to make your duties more manageable. Perhaps there are things you are doing that are not adding value to the organization, he said.

Be strategic about taking on extra work.

"If you are going to work harder, do something that's going to have an impact on your career," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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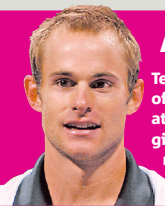
Il Divo singer engaged

David Miller, the only American singer in the international opera group Il Divo, is getting engaged, Miller, 36, proposed to his girlfriend, Sarah Joy Kabanuck, an opera singer and theatre actress who starred in Baz Luhrmann's La Boheme on Broadway. They have been dating for six years. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment



Andy hitched

Tennis player Andy Roddick is officially off the market. The athlete, 26, wed his longtime girlfriend, Sports Illustrated model Brooklyn Decker, 21, on Friday. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Over the top action

Statham returns in Crank: High Voltage

Crank: High Voltage

Directors: Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor
Stars: Jason Statham
Classification: 18A
Rating: ●●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Crank: High Voltage is disgusting, disposable, disorienting, inhuman and infantile ... and those are its good points.

Immediately picking up where the attention deficit friendly adventures of the first instalment left off, brutish British action hero Jason Statham returns as seemingly superhuman underworld anti-hero Chev Chellios, who, after surviving an impossible fall from a helicopter, has his heart removed by Triad organ thieves and replaced by a bionic one.

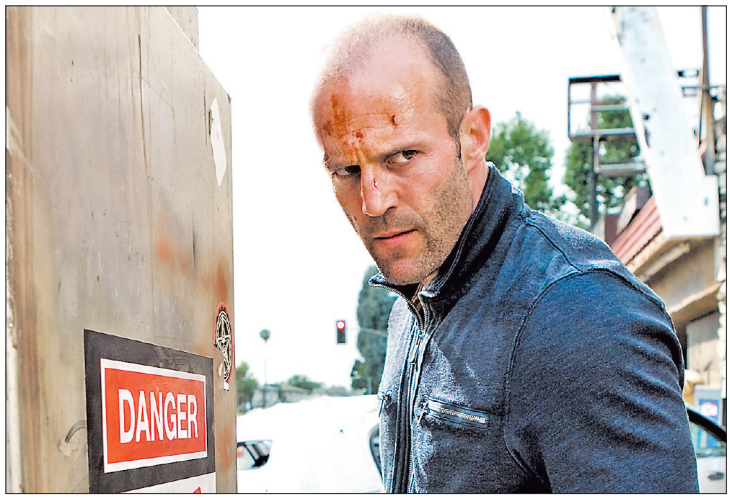
In order for Chev to beat the clock — again — and retrieve his resilient ticker, he has to keep his body constantly pulsing with electricity, a gimmicky plot device that unleashes scene after scene of finger-in-socket silliness.

In an effort to out-inundate its audience with action, Crank is a non-stop, over the top orgy of violence, sex, misogyny, racism and general bad taste driven by a genuinely bizarre score by ex-Faith No More frontman Mike Patton.

But for all its sound and fury, it feels safe: An over stylized, faux-hip descent into cartoonish, music video informed depravity that tries hard to be a grand scale Lloyd Kaufman meets Russ Meyer exploitation grindhouse-style movie. Instead, it comes off as a glossy — though undeniably energetic — big budget forgery.

Red Bull junkies, gamers, 12-year-old boys and easily bored morons might love every inch of this fast forward, ultra-bloody time waster but by the time Statham turns into a jut-jawed, power plant levelling Godzilla-esque monster — and yes, it does happen — even they might be annoyed by directors Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor's grab bag lunacy and pretentious self awareness.

You have been warned...



Jason Statham returns as underworld thug Chev Chellios in Crank: High Voltage

Madonna injured in fall from horse

PEOPLE Madonna took a tumble while horseback riding in the Hamptons on Saturday when her mount was startled by photographers, and she suffered "minor injuries" and bruises, a spokeswoman said.

Paparazzi had "jumped out of the bushes" to photograph her, spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg said.

It's at least the second fall from a horse in four years for Madonna, who recently turned 50. The singer was treated at a hospital and released, said Rosenberg, who wouldn't disclose more details on her condition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unlikely star Susan Boyle handling attention

British singing sensation Susan Boyle says she's untroubled by people drawing contrasts between her angelic voice and dowdy image after she was thrust into the international spotlight.

The unlikely star, who sprang to fame after her appearance on a British televised talent competition became an online hit, said she loves the attention and isn't bothered by those who poke fun at her unpolished appearance.

"It goes with the territory," Boyle said Friday.

"It doesn't bother me."

In a telephone interview Boyle expressed some impatience with questions over her love life.

The 47-year-old Scot raised eyebrows when she told a British television audience last week she'd "never been kissed."

"It was said as a joke, not an advert. Can we move on?" Boyle said, laughing.

And as for the flood of attention — with fans and even competition judge Piers Morgan offering to give her a peck — Boyle said she's flattered but isn't letting herself be carried away.

"If people want to kiss me, it has to be controlled," she said, still chuckling.

Morgan took part in an interview Boyle did via satellite with U.S. cable channel CNN. He asked her to have dinner with him in London — and she accepted — in a transcript released ahead of her appearance Friday night on Larry King Live.

The talent judge, speaking separately via satellite, also apologized to Boyle not giving "anything like the respect we should have" until she began to sing.

"I had never heard a more surprising, extraordinary voice coming out of somebody so unexpected," Morgan said.

The media attention being lavished on Boyle virtually guarantees her a spot in the final rounds of Britain's Got Talent, the U.K. version of America's Got Talent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNN PHOTO

CNN's Larry King, left, interviews singing sensation Susan Boyle.

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New baby for Paisley family

Country singer Brad Paisley and his wife, According to Jim star Kimberly Williams-Paisley, left, welcomed a son Friday, their reps confirmed to usmagazine.com. "The healthy baby boy was born this morning at a Nashville-area hospital," they said in a statement. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment in brief

MOVIES The Screen Actors Guild and the Hollywood studios said Friday they have reached a tentative deal on movie and prime-time TV show productions, capping a year-long battle that ended with the Guild giving up its fight for better Internet compensation. The Guild said its leaders would recommend approval by the board and ratification by its members.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern exposure

Comedian Lewis Black crosses country on Dual Citizenship Tour

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

"It always makes sense to come to a new territory during a complete economic catastrophe," quips Lewis Black about traipsing Canada during one of the greatest financial strains since the Great Depression.

Best known for his Back In Black short features on The Daily Show With Jon Stewart, which take a critical viewpoint of society, 60 year-old observational comedian Lewis Black brings his one-man stand-up act, The Dual Citizenship Tour, across Canada this month.

As is typical of Black, there's always a shroud of mystery surrounding his intent. He hides behind drollery while discussing the tour's title, stating that despite his adoration for the U.S., the political clarity which drives his humour forces him to make alternate living arrangements. The moniker is an imploration for Canucks to welcome him into our family.

"I called it The Dual Citizenship Tour because I'm making an appeal to you to please stay independent," he continues. "I may be coming up here and someone's gonna have to keep me in their house. Canada is my escape route and this tour is my final appeal. I'm trying to cement the relationship. At any moment, the U.S. could go up in smoke so my hope is that you'll take me just in case."

In all reality though, the 12-date tour is the result of increased popularity due to his Daily Show stint. Black wasn't about to shrug off his first real chance to see The Great White North in its entirety.

"The attraction is really wanting to do that drive across Canada," he relents. "I've always wanted to do (it) and now I have the opportunity. I can actually spend time here and see the inner-workings; the real elements."

To that extent, Black admits that he is striving to stay as far away from the typical Canucks-versus-Americans train of humour, feeling it worn out; overused. But he's not eliminating it entirely, expecting that his limited understanding of Canada will most likely become comedic fuel during the show's run.

"Hopefully I'll come out with 20 minutes of material about Canada. I can b—h about Stephen Harper to you guys when I'm hosting Just For Laughs this year. At this point, the tour doesn't really cater to (Canadians) other than (my) apologizing for being American. I don't think there's a need. You guys have being Canadian shoved in your face. You don't need me doing it. You're always sucking that exhaust.

"Instead, I'm talking about alternative energy, the economy ... Harper once I can get my head around him. My hope is to start seeing how you guys deal with stuff as opposed to how (Americans) deal with stuff, as long as I don't drink too much. We'll see what happens. I've got time before the tour starts so I'm sure more s—t will hit the fan on the way."

Lewis Black
GETTY IMAGES

Back in Black

- Lewis Black's Dual Citizenship Tour stops in Toronto for shows at the Winter Garden Theatre April 24, 25 & 26. Details at lewisblack.com.

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Kiss frontman Gene Simmons.

Canadians get out the vote for Kiss

MUSIC It appears Canadians really want their Kiss.

The classic rock band is asking North American fans to vote online for which cities they should hit for their next tour.

The top four cities so far are Canadian, as are eight of the top 10. Winnipeg has the most votes, followed by Kingston, Ont., Oshawa, Ont., Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Edmonton and Saskatoon.

Dallas and New York City are the only American cities in the top 10.

Oshawa's Mayor John Gray is pushing hard for Kiss to visit his beleaguered manufacturing city, which has been beset by job cuts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Potter trailer released
Hogwarts hysteria is growing following the release of a new trailer for Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince late last week. Fans will have to wait another three months to see the film, which will open in July. ANANOVA.COM

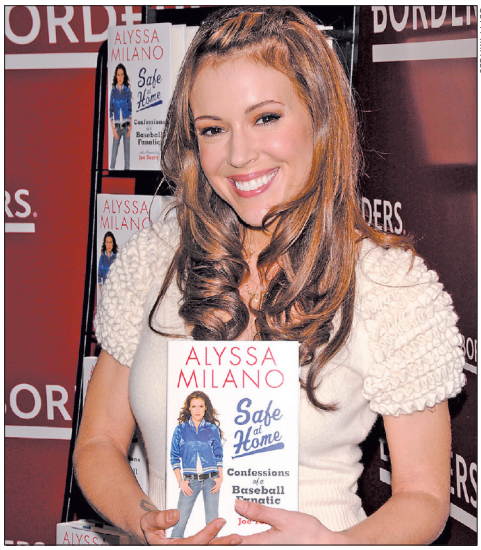
Milano's got ballgame

Alyssa Milano just may be the baseball equivalent of Kentucky basketball superfan Ashley Judd.

Milano is best known for her roles on the television series Who's the Boss? and Charmed. She also has season tickets to her beloved Los Angeles Dodgers, recently finished a tour for her new book Safe at Home: Confessions of a Baseball Fanatic and has a baseball-themed apparel line called "touch."

The actress was at Citi Field on Saturday to help launch the first boutique store for the clothing line. She was struck by how the New York Mets' new ballpark captured some of the flavour of Ebbets Field, the cozy bandbox where her father once watched the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"Anything that pays homage to the greats before these greats is important," Milano said, sitting in the shade of the home dugout before the Mets played the Milwaukee Brewers. "Baseball is built on the history of the sport."



GETTY IMAGES

Alyssa Milano displays her book Safe at Home: Confessions of a Baseball Fanatic during a recent promotional tour.

Milano recalled how her father, film editor Thomas Milano, was "heartbroken" when the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles. Eventually her family followed them to California, and their love for the team was rekindled.

"I realized (baseball) was something he loved and I could love through his eyes," she said.

The 36-year-old actress, who recently announced her engagement to Hollywood agent David Bugliari, tries to keep up with the daily grind of the 162-game season.

She called an iPhone feature that allows her to listen to radio broadcasts of major league teams "the greatest invention ever," and has a blog where she riffs on everything from the success of Padres pitcher Chris Young to "Opening Day and other Mumblings."

As for the clothing line, Milano said approaching baseball executives to get licensing approval a few years ago made all those meetings with Hollywood big shots seem like a joke.

"It was a very intimidating to actually come in and meet with MLB," she said. "These 10 guys in suits, all over 50, and I'm trying to pitch a women's clothing line?"

Milano said she hopes the apparel, featuring everything from sweaters and jeans to caps and jackets, will help draw more women to the game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trial underway for alleged Tyra stalker

A Georgia man accused of stalking Tyra Banks was simply responding to the model-turned-TV host's invitation for fans to reach out to her when he followed her from coast to coast, a defence lawyer said Friday.

Lawyer Sydney O'Hagen said in her opening statement at Brady Green's trial that he was just an overzealous fan who had hoped to be in Banks' studio audience, meet her and perhaps be a guest on her show.

O'Hagen noted that people interviewed on The Tyra Banks Show are not just celebrities, but often ordinary people who have had unusual experiences. She said Green, with his harsh, disadvantaged background, had hoped to be on her show.

The lawyer said Green never asked for Banks' personal information and never claimed they were meant to marry and have children.

Tyra Banks

The things he did, O'Hagen said, "Simply do not constitute a crime" and he gave Banks no reason to fear she was in danger.

Assistant District Attorney Shawn McMahon disagreed. He said Green accused an employee of lying when he said he didn't know where Banks' show was taping.

The defendant told him, "I'm going to find you and slit your throat," McMahon said.

McMahon also cited the note Green enclosed with flowers he sent to Banks: "When I see you, I love you," it read. He said Green was a stranger to her.

The prosecutor said a copy of that note was in Green's duffel bag when he was arrested March 18, 2008, in a McDonald's near Banks' Manhattan studios.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Hollywood justice
A U.S. grand jury has indicted film director John McTiernan for making false statements to the FBI about private investigator Anthony Pellicano. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best Years returns with a makeover

After an extended hiatus, the college drama The Best Years returns to the dial today with new cast members and a lighter tone.

The teen soap, shot in Toronto and Guelph, Ont., suffered some unfavourable reviews in its first season, which featured over-the-top melodrama. But it promises a funnier, sexier romp this year as heroine Samantha Best navigates her way through Charles University.

The show's star, Charity Shea, says there's a marked difference in approach to the new batch of shows, which will air on E! and pick up as the characters enter their sophomore year.

"The producers ... wanted to kind of change it up a little bit and hit a broader audience," says Shea, whose character grew up in foster care but lands at prestigious Charles University thanks to a scholarship and rich aunt. "So they did ... stuff that really actually does happen in college ... You're not really going to find suicide or someone molested someone's daughter, stuff like that. You're going to find typical issues — it's really all about studying, friendship and it goes back into Samantha's family."

It's been almost two years since the show first hit the air with a parade of calamities that included a deadly accident within 24 hours of Sam's arrival at school, a shower prank that left Sam's skin dyed purple and a classmate's suicide attempt. This time around, Sam returns to school nine months after leaving for a two-week winter break. Old friends Noah and Kat are still around, but there are a bunch of new kids: Noah's got a pre-med girlfriend, Robyn, and a hot new roommate named Del. Adding drama is Sam's spoiled and rebellious cousin, Alicia, (played by Degrassi's Lauren Collins) who ends up being her new roommate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANWEST MEDIA

Charity Shea, right, stars as Samantha Best on The Best Years. Left, Lauren Collins (of Degrassi: The Next Generation) will play Samantha's bratty cousin — and new roommate — Alicia.

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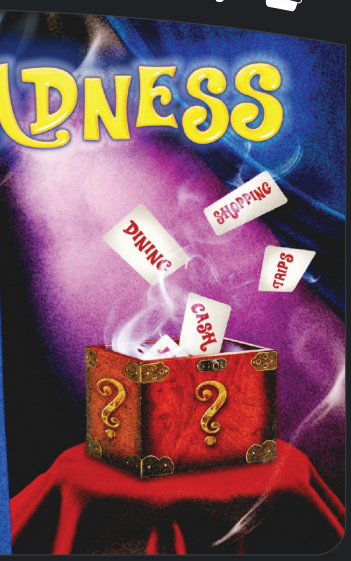

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Thompson returning as beloved Nanny
Emma Thompson will be getting up to her old tricks in a sequel to hit 2005 family film Nanny McPhee. The Oscar winner will star, produce and write the screenplay for Nanny McPhee & the Big Bang. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Larter plays Obsessed

Ali Larter stars as a women stalking a married man in the thriller Obsessed, which hits theatres Friday.

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Ali Larter may act deluded in her latest thriller Obsessed but she has no delusions about society's obsession with celebrity.

"It's part of what comes in our business," admitted the actress recently. "The hardest part for most actors is having to deal with the paparazzi and kind of how fans can sometimes take a moment too far.

"But the other end of it is that we've chosen these careers and when you put yourself in the public eye, there's a certain amount of responsibility that comes with it."

While the 33-year-old star of TV's Heroes has mostly avoided the tabloid trappings of many other young actresses, Larter still dislikes the paparazzi — but for a reason you might not expect.

"Just always having to be on is, for me, the most difficult part," admitted Larter. "I don't want to have to get ready before I leave my house ... who wants to worry about that when they go to the grocery store? I just want to go peruse heirloom tomatoes and not worry about a paparazzi jumping out from the bananas."

"I didn't play her as a stalker. I think of it as a woman who fell in love."
Ali Larter on her character in Obsessed

While Obsessed (in theatres Friday) may not directly deal with celebrity stalking, it does take a look at one woman's crazed obsession with a married man (Idris Elba) and how she sets out to sabotage his marriage to a less-than-complacent wife (Beyoncé Knowles).

"I didn't play her as a stalker. I think of it as a woman who fell in love," said Larter.

"For me, it was important to understand the clues into her psychosis and what happened to her to make her believe the things that this man said are true, so hopefully the audience is going to go on that journey with me."

For those who do take the film's journey, it means catching a predicament most paparazzi would kill to witness in person — an all-out catfight between Larter and Knowles.

"She's stunningly beautiful," said Larter of the pop star. "One of my favourite moments is having Beyoncé charge at me. How many people get to have that happen in their life?"

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- TIME Magazine

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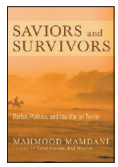
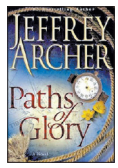
Darfur's past offers answers



Saviors and **Survivors**

Author: Mahmood Mamdani
Publisher: Pantheon Books
Price: $32 (Hardcover)

By definition, can the war-torn situation in Darfur, Sudan be considered genocide? Mahmood Mamdani says no. The Ugandan-born Columbia University professor of anthropology and political science states his case for Sudan in his book Saviors and Survivors. The book explores the region's history to understand present violence in the country. From infighting in Darfur's 1980s civil war to attempted British tribalisation in the region, Saviors and Survivors examines how several domestic and international players became involved in the conflict, and how Sudan landed in the path of the American-initiated War on Terror.



Paths of **Glory**

Author: Jeffrey Archer
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $30.95 (Hardcover)

Seventy-five years after George Mallory took the trek to become the first person to ascend Mount Everest, his remains were finally found. Back in 1924, the man disappeared while trying to reach the summit, leaving people eager to know whether he'd actually completed his mission. In Jeffrey Archer's Paths of Glory, the author uses the true story as a basis for his fictional tale of curiosity. By recalling Mallory's early life, through marriage, the birth of his child and fighting in the First World War, Archer builds a case to allow readers to decide if Mallory really deserves commendation for his climb.

BookPicks

The Second **Opinion**

Author: Michael Palmer
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $17.95 (Paperback)

Dr. Thea Sperelakis has made her mark on the Boston medical industry by championing the defenseless. Bothered by self-centered social practices and conflict at work, she dodges the finance-focused hospital to join Doctors Without Borders in the Congo. But she's forced to return when she learns Petros, her physician dad, has been hurt in a hit-and-run accident. Thea fights her siblings to keep her father living, when they'd prefer him to remain untreated. But when Petros' "accident" turns into a potential crime, Thea has a lot more to discover.

BRIAN COULTON/
FOR METRO CANADA

primetime 4/20/09

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	265	353	2 TVO	Time Team		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		Road to Tokyo (DVS)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Heroes "I Am Sylar" (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	NHL Hockey Eastern Conference Quarterfinal Game 3 -- Boston Bruins at Montreal Canadiens.						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Less-Kind	Surviving Sub.	Mantracker (DVS)		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Soup (N)	How I Met	My Boys	Engagement	The Best Years (DVS)		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Kheops révélé		*Jardins en automne* (2006, Comédie) Séverin Blanchet.				Facteur
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Hist Language
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Engagement	The Mentalist (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Heroes "I Am Sylar" (N)		Medium (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars			Surviving Sub.	(10:02) Castle (N)		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Dancing With the Stars			Jeff Ltd.	(10:02) Castle (N)		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		24 (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		American Experience (N) (DVS)			TBA	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)		One Tree Hill (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N)
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	Planet Earth		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		Big Mac: Inside McDonald's		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at New York Yankees. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Quarterfinal Game 3 -- Capitals at Rangers					NHL Hockey: West Quarterfinal -- Blackhawks at Flames			
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Thailand"		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR (N)		SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25 YTV	Karaoke Star Junior (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Punch	Robot Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	How Clean	Kim	Love It or List It (N)		Dollars	House	Maxed Out
	570	580	29 MM	The O.C.		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Hooking Up	Video on Trial	MuchVibe
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Three-Way"		Intervention (HDTV)		Intervention (HDTV)		Paranormal	Paranormal	Paranormal
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Calabria: La Terra Magica		Carabinieri		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Karaoke Star Junior		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Name Is Earl	The Office	House
	620	523	40 BVO	Ballet Girls Dancers.		Ballet Victoria, A Leap of Faith		Audience Neil Diamond		Altered by Elvis		Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Wedding SOS	Project Runway Canada		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Chimera"		Hero Ships		Victory 1945 "Last Days"		NCIS "Chimera"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Bob Saget: That Ain't Right		Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Property Virgin	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	*In Good Company* ★★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama)				Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park		*ATL* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip "T.I." Harris, Lauren London.				Harlem Heights	Harlem Heights	*ATL* ★★
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Child's Play* ★★ (1988, Horror) Catherine Hicks.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV News	Cribs	The Hills	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Reality	Carlawood	E News	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Make or Break
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Chuck-Day Off	Work for Food	Glutton-Punish.	Food Detective	Get on Plate	Kitchen Nightmares		Restaurant
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Green Grass	May-December	McLeod's Daughters		Twist of Faith	Clergy	Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's British Friend		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small (N)	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Le Top Bloopers TVA		Ma Maison Rona (N)		Monk Monk va à l'hôpital. (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		Commander In Chief		Dollars	Lie Detective	Mediums
	300	601	301 M1	(6:15) *First Sunday*		Stargate Atlantis		Tracey Ullman	U.S. of Tara	The Line (N)		Secret Diary
	305	612	306 PIX	*Seven Years*	(7:20) *Black Pearls* ★ (1990, Drama)			*The Blues Brothers* ★★★ (1980, Musical Comedy)				*Canvas*

critics'corner

An Audience With Neil Diamond

With sales of 115 million records, Neil Diamond is ranked third on the list of the most successful artists ever. In this new special, he holds forth on his life and career before an audience that includes Tim Rice, Dame Judi Dench and Alison Steadman, before launching into his greatest hits. He performs old favorites along with songs from the 2008 album "Home Before Dark." 9 PM on BVO

The Big Bang Theory

The holidays aren't very merry for Leonard when a handsome colleague begins dating Penny, while Sheldon drives everyone nuts trying to master the nuances of gift-giving etiquette in "The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis." 8 PM on CTV CBS

Rules of Engagement

Jeff invites Audrey to watch him play softball, hoping to show her that he's not an old fogy after he falls asleep while watching a movie, but he winds up being undone by a sneeze in the new episode "Old Timer's Day." 9:30 PM on E!; 9:31 PM on CBS

People need to be controlled: Chan

CHINA Action star Jackie Chan grew up in Hong Kong's freewheeling society, but he said Saturday that too much freedom isn't good and he's starting to think "we Chinese need to be controlled." The Hong Kong actor was participating in a panel at the annual Boao Forum on Saturday when he was asked to discuss censorship and restrictions on filmmakers in China. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In **brief**

DEATH Writer J.G. Ballard, 78, died Sunday. He was best known for his autobiographical Empire of the Sun, based on his detention in a Japanese prison camp in China, and his 1973 novel Crash, which was turned into a David Cronenberg film. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

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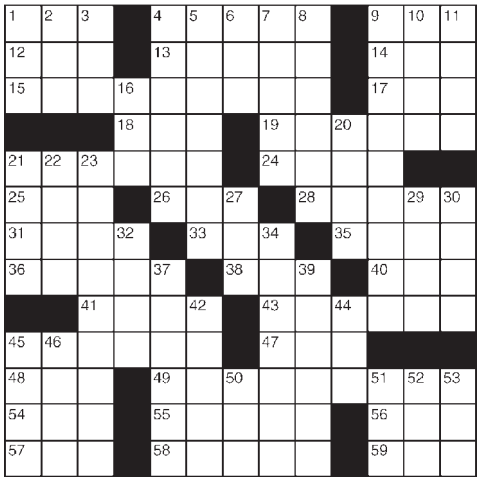

Crossword across

1 "By all means"
4 Picture puzzle
9 Bat wood
12 Beer cousin
13 Representative
14 Falsehood
15 Willa Cather work
17 Tribute in verse
18 Mel of Cooperstown
19 Christmas tree shimmer
21 Rose or carnation
24 Fit of peevishness
25 Mouth part
26 Groove on
28 Spread outward
31 Surrounded by
33 — de deux
35 Rational
36 Churlish types
38 Pit of your stomach
40 "CSI" find
41 "Peter Pan" pooch
43 Grace, for one
45 Cyndi Lauper hit
47 Glutton
48 Ball prop
49 Willa Cather work
54 Listening device
55 Oyster prize
56 Seek damages
57 "— Doubtfire"
58 Fry lightly
59 Grow old

Crossword down

1 Sweet potato
2 TV Tarzan Ron
3 Mariner's place
4 Snitched (on)
5 Self-indulgence of a sort
6 Franklin or Stein
7 Monads
8 Dry cleaner's targets
9 Willa Cather work
10 Faction
11 Back of the foot
16 Promptly
20 Pinches
21 "Spare tire"
22 Car to a prom
23 Willa Cather work
27 Joke
29 Hathaway or Heche
30 Calendar quota
32 Hardly fascinating
34 Boost
37 Gets nosy
39 Tiny amount
42 Breathlessness?
44 Past
45 Goblet feature
46 Listen to
50 Water (Fr.)
51 Mex. neighbour
52 Carpet
53 Witness

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		4					
		5		9				4
		6		5	8	2	1	
		9						6
	5	1		4		8	2	
6						7		
	3	7	9	2		4		
8				6		3		
					5		7	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	8	1	5	9	2	3	6	7
7	2	3	4	6	8	9	1	5
5	6	9	7	1	3	8	2	4
1	5	6	8	4	9	2	7	3
2	3	8	1	7	6	4	5	9
9	4	7	3	2	5	1	8	6
3	1	2	6	5	4	7	9	8
8	9	5	2	3	7	6	4	1
6	7	4	9	8	1	5	3	2

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Metro Recipe of the Day

Basil-Stuffed Chicken Breasts

INGREDIENTS:

4 skinless boneless chicken breast halves
3 oz (90 g) mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
1 tomato, thinly sliced
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 bunch fresh basil, about 3/4 oz (20 g)
4 slices prosciutto, about 2 oz (60 g) in total
1 tbsp (15 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and fresh-ground black pepper

GREEN SALAD:

2 tbsp (25 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
Fresh juice of 1/2 lemon
4 oz (125 g) mixed salad leaves
1 bunch fresh watercress, large stems discarded

METHOD:

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Slit each chicken breast half and enlarge to form pocket.
2. Divide mozzarella between chicken breast halves, sliding slices into pockets. Top cheese with tomato slices and crushed garlic. Roughly chop some basil and sprinkle in pockets.
3. Season chicken breasts. Place large sprig of basil on each, then wrap in a slice of prosciutto, making sure that ham covers slit in chicken. Tie securely with kitchen string.
4. Heat oil in large frying pan over medium heat. Add chicken breasts and sauté over high heat until brown on both sides, 3 minutes. Transfer chicken to baking dish. Bake until chicken is cooked through and juices run clear when breast is pierced, 10 to 12 minutes.
5. For salad, put oil and lemon juice in bowl, season with salt and pepper to taste, and whisk. Add lettuce and watercress, then toss. Divide between 4 serving plates.
6. Remove string from chicken breasts. Cut each piece crosswise into slices, holding together to keep shape. Arrange on salad and garnish with remaining basil.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A happy friend speaks out of turn. A crook complains about your advice. Someone jumps out from a hidden alcove.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Somebody knows that you won't say the wrong thing. Have fun with a group of friends. An arrogant person needs a lesson in hospitality.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Even a miracle can't bring something back to you. Someone you know will explode with laughter. Wait patiently for a floundering fool.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
An insulting person will cause misery. Single out a much-loved guy for special attention. Try new approach in search of satisfaction.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Enjoy foolish rules if you're not forced to obey them. A crazy scheme is challenged by a skeptic. A private place is helpful to soothe a wounded ego.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A woman will go out for treats. A reality check resolves nothing. A moment of fame leads to hours of flattery.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A control freak makes a savage point. Disguise your response to a lovelorn person. Performing a random act of kindness does you good.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Give a troubled person some special help. You can help to stabilize a volatile situation. Someone you dream about will escape from danger.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Use your self-discipline to play by the rules. An elder wants you to lose a game. Don't trivialize a wild and crazy fantasy.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A true friend has gone astray. A promise interferes with your love life. When an opening comes up you should grab it.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A stranger won't take your status for granted. A shredded heart will be mended. Being silly is more fun than it used to be.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
An elated person is a conversational topic. An indirect assessment takes place at a meeting. Romantic risks are discussed.

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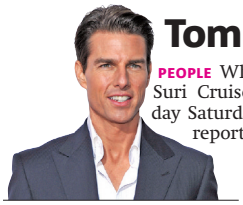
If singledom ain't broke: Matthew

Perpetual Hollywood bachelor Matthew McConaughey says that when it comes to marriage, why fix it if it ain't broke? "It's just not something I plan on doing right now, and that I feel like I need to do right now," said the 39-year-old actor. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Tom calls in air support for Suri's party



PEOPLE While celebrating Suri Cruise's third birthday Saturday, guests were reportedly disturbed by a paparazzi helicopter swooping overhead, according to TMZ, so father Tom called the cops. The LAPD airship reportedly did a flyby, but the offending aircraft was gone by the time they arrived. METRO WORLD NEWS

Wife prefers a fat, flabby Hugh

PEOPLE Hugh Jackman's wife finds his muscular body "annoying," female-first.co.uk reports.

The actor, who embarked on a gruelling exercise regime for his new movie X-Men Origins: Wolverine, infuriated his spouse Deborra-Lee Furness by getting into better shape than her.

He joked: "She gets very annoyed. She says, 'A husband's job is to be fat and flabby and make me look fabulous.' She said I wasn't living up to my end of the bargain."

Hugh undertook a "full-on" fitness and diet program to reprise his role as the mutant superhero and says he achieved his chiselled physique through two full workouts daily, and meals of steamed chicken and vegetables every three hours. METRO NEWS SERVICES

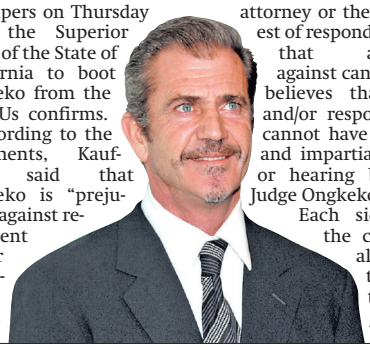
New judge for Mel's divorce

LEGAL Mel Gibson received a new judge after his lawyer has requested to remove Judge Rafael Ongkeko from presiding over his divorce case against his wife, Robyn, usmagazine.com reports.

The case was reassigned to Judge Frederick Shaller "for all future court proceedings," usmagazine.com confirmed on Friday.

The star's attorney, Robert Kaufman, filed legal papers on Thursday with the Superior Court of the State of California to boot Ongkeko from the case, Us confirms.

According to the documents, Kaufman said that Ongkeko is "prejudiced against respondent and/or the respondent's attorney or the interest of respondent so that affiant against cannot or believes that he and/or respondent cannot have a fair and impartial trial or hearing before Judge Ongkeko."



Each side in the case is allowed to veto a judge once, within the first 10 days. Robyn's lawyer, Laura Wasser, has yet to respond.

However, according to TMZ.com, it is more likely that the couple will not appear in an L.A. county courthouse and will instead get a private judge to hear them out away from all the publicity and attention.

Gibson and Robyn filed for divorce last week after 28 years of marriage and seven kids. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Farrah's son pleads for rehab

LEGAL The troubled son of Farrah Fawcett and Ryan O'Neal went before L.A. judge Scott T. Millington on Friday after violating his probation and there being traces of heroin in his rehab treatment room on April 5, intouch weekly.com reports.

Redmond O'Neal told the judge he was concerned about his mother, Fawcett, who has been battling cancer for three years and was just released from the hospital.

"I want to be there for my mom, who is really sick. She is laying in bed and weighs 86 pounds and I am really upset with myself," O'Neal told the judge.

After the judge told O'Neal, 24, he did not want to see him back in court again, he asked O'Neal if he was serious about completing a drug treatment program. O'Neal replied, "Yes, I want treatment. I really want to do it."

O'Neal was told by Judge Millington that he will remain in custody in an L.A. jail and his next court date will be April 30 for violating probation from a DUI and a drug possession case involving his father in 2008. METRO NEWS SERVICES

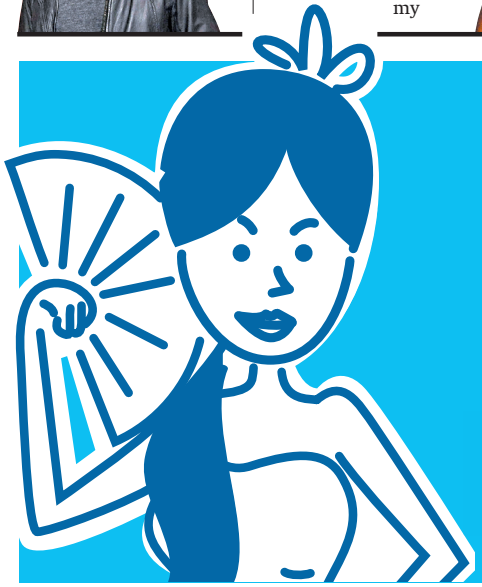
Anne hopes for 'perfect man'

DATING Anne Hathaway believes in the "perfect" man, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who split from long-term boyfriend Raffaello Follieri last year after he was accused of fraud — insists she is over her heartbreak and still believes in true love.

Hathaway, who is currently dating actor Adam Shulman, said: "I think the perfect partner exists, of course I believe so. I know he's somewhere. "My prince charming is kind, patient, has a sense of humour and rescues me from the dizzy, frenetic, fast-paced rhythm of this life." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music



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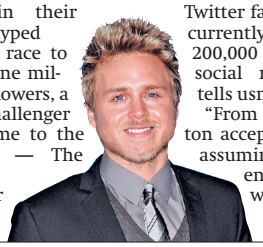
GaGa's career path

Singer Lady GaGa has lofty ambitions for a career change after she hangs up her mike — she wants to exhibit her own fashion designs and host fashion and technology displays at the Louvre Museum in Paris, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Ashton v. Spencer in Twitter race?

RIVALRY The same day that Ashton Kutcher beat CNN in their much-hyped Twitter race to reach one million followers, a new challenger has come to the surface — The Hills' Spencer Pratt.



"Ashton had a huge head start, but I believe in my Twitter family," Pratt, who currently has less than 200,000 followers on the social networking site, tells usmagazine.com.

"From the moment Ashton accepts my challenge, assuming he's man enough to do so, whoever adds the most new followers in 30 days wins."

What are the stakes for their May 17 deadline? "If I win, Ashton and Demi (Moore, his wife) have to wash my car," he says. If he loses, Pratt adds that "Heidi (Montag) and I will clean their house."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Warmth

Britney threatened by Kevin's new fiancée?

PEOPLE Britney Spears feels "betrayed" by Kevin Federline, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is reportedly furious with her ex-husband — with whom she has two children, Sean Preston, three, and Jayden James, two — after he proposed to girlfriend Victoria Prince, because Spears still has feelings for him.

A source close to Spears — who is rumoured to be dating her backing dancer Chase Benz — said: "Britney's face fell when Kevin told her he had proposed. She's been flirting with her dancers and has a thing going on with Chase but she still loves Kevin and always hoped they'd get back together.

"It wouldn't surprise me if her flirting with other guys was purely to make him jealous."

Spears — who divorced Federline in 2007 — is said to be particularly concerned with the amount of time Prince will be spending with her sons.

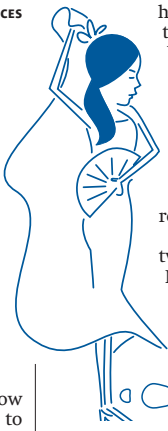
The source added: "I don't think Britney saw her as a threat until Kevin proposed but now she will be stepmother to Britney's kids and that doesn't make her happy."

As well, Spears' security team earned their pay recently when a stalker showed up on the singer's property in Calabasas, Calif. Spears was in L.A. to perform when Miranda Tozier-Robbins, a former American Idol contestant and a student at the New England Institute of Art, was caught peeping through Spears' windows while dressed in camouflage fatigues and carrying a backpack full of video equipment, according to Hollyscoop.

According to the police report, Tozier-Robbins, who was later arrested for trespassing, "balked at requests" from security to get her off the property. METRO WORLD NEWS

Amy pens song about 'Ultimate Betrayal'

RELATIONSHIP Singer Amy Winehouse has reportedly penned a new track called the Ultimate Betrayal following claims her estranged husband is expecting a child with another woman, femalefirst.co.uk reports.



Mother-of-two Gilleen Morris told a British newspaper last weekend that she is six weeks pregnant with Blake Fielder-Civil's baby.

Winehouse was reportedly heartbroken by the news — and has written an emotional song about her turbulent relationship with Fielder-Civil while working on a new album in St. Lucia, according to British newspaper The Sun.

A source tells the publication, "Amy still felt they had something between them and that one day they'd be together again. But this news destroyed her. She sat down with her guitar and started writing the Ultimate Betrayal. She keeps repeating the line: Blake a baby, no, no, no. It's very haunting."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brooke comes to dad Hulk's defence

Art

FAMILY Brooke Hogan is coming to the defence of her dad, Hulk Hogan, after comments he made to Rolling Stone about being able to sympathize with O.J. Simpson caused a dust-up with his ex-wife, Linda Hogan.

GETTY IMAGES

"I cannot believe how blown out of proportion one small part of a seven-page article has become," Brooke tells Entertainment Tonight. "I look up to my father in every way. He has been through so much and has taken the high road through it all. The idea that he would condone the O.J. situation is just outrageous." METRO WORLD NEWS

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